

S 4724

Solid Start Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Sep 24, 2020

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Sep 24, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4724>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NH • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		Sep 24, 2020
Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]	R · ND		Sep 24, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 24, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 8819	Related bill	Nov 24, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Solid Start Act of 2020

This bill permanently authorizes and expands the Solid Start program, which is an outreach program for veterans in their first year of separation from the military.

Specifically, the bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to coordinate with the Department of Defense to

- collect updated contact information during transition classes or separation counseling for members of the Armed Forces who are separating from service,
- explain the existence and purpose of the program,
- call veterans at least twice within the first year of separation,
- publish information about the program in booklets and on the VA website,
- ensure calls are tailored to each veteran's needs by conducting quality assurance tests, and
- prioritize outreach to veterans who have accessed mental health resources prior to separation from the Armed Forces.

Under the bill, the VA is authorized to (1) encourage members of the Armed Forces to provide additional contact information if they are unreachable following their separation, (2) follow up on missed phone calls, and (3) reach out to veterans who separated prior to the initiation of the Solid Start program.

The Government Accountability Office must assess and report on the Solid Start program.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 24, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
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