

## HR 6591

To ensure that veterans receive timely and effective health care under the Veterans Community Care Program and Veterans Care Agreements during the COVID-19 emergency, and for other purposes.

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Armed Forces and National Security

**Introduced:** Apr 21, 2020

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Sep 30, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6591>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Pappas, Chris [D-NH-1]

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

### Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		May 5, 2020
Rep. Slotkin, Elissa [D-MI-8]	D · MI		May 8, 2020
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]	D · OH		May 22, 2020
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Jul 27, 2020
Rep. Panetta, Jimmy [D-CA-20]	D · CA		Aug 28, 2020

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 30, 2020

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 3888	Related bill	Jun 3, 2020: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

This bill sets forth policies and procedures related to medical care for veterans covered under the Veterans Community Care Program and Veterans Care Agreements during the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) emergency period.

Specifically, the bill authorizes covered veterans to receive care for COVID-19 diagnosis or treatment under the Veterans Community Care Program and Veterans Care Agreements during the COVID-19 emergency period, regardless of whether such care is for a service-connected disability. Emergency medical care and COVID-19 care shall not require Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) preauthorization during the emergency period.

The bill prescribes how the VA shall administer claims for payments relating to emergency COVID-19 care, depending on whether the community care provider is (1) an eligible provider under the Veterans Community Care Program, (2) party to a Veterans Care Agreement, or (3) not eligible under the Veterans Community Care Program or part of a Veterans Care Agreement.

The bill classifies emergency treatment for COVID-19 as emergency treatment eligible for coverage by the VA.

The VA shall determine whether a veteran who receives emergency care for COVID-19 is an active VA health care participant without regard to whether the veteran has received VA medical care in the two years preceding such emergency care.

Finally, the bill specifies that, during the emergency period, community care providers that furnish emergency COVID-19 care are required to submit a claim for payment to the VA within 180 days of such care.

## **Actions Timeline**

---

- **Sep 30, 2020:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Apr 21, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 21, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.