

## HR 2819

Solid Start Act of 2021

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

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

**Introduced:** Apr 22, 2021

**Current Status:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.

**Latest Action:** Subcommittee Hearings Held. (Oct 14, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2819>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Slotkin, Elissa [D-MI-8]

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

### Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Joyce, David P. [R-OH-14]	R · OH		Apr 22, 2021
Rep. Pappas, Chris [D-NH-1]	D · NH		Nov 3, 2021
Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-8]	R · FL		Nov 12, 2021
Rep. Aguilar, Pete [D-CA-31]	D · CA		Jan 10, 2022

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Oct 14, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 1198	Identical bill	Oct 17, 2022: Became Public Law No: 117-205.

## **Solid Start Act of 2021**

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 three times within the first year of separation;
- publish information about the program in booklets and on the VA website;
- provide women veterans with information tailored to their health care and benefit needs;
- provide information on access to state and local resources, such as Vet Centers;
- gather and analyze data that assesses the effectiveness of the program;
- 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.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Oct 14, 2021:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Jul 14, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Apr 22, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 22, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.