

S 4441

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for peer support specialists for claimants who are survivors of military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jun 22, 2022

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Jun 22, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/4441>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]

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

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jun 22, 2022
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Jun 22, 2022
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jul 11, 2022
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Jul 13, 2022
Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]	R · ND		Jul 25, 2022
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Sep 22, 2022
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Nov 30, 2022
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Dec 5, 2022
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Dec 5, 2022
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Dec 6, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 22, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 2724	Identical bill	Dec 27, 2022: Became Public Law No: 117-271.

This bill prescribes that a peer support specialist of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) must not be responsible for providing assistance to a veteran regarding a claim for compensation for a covered mental health condition (e.g., post-traumatic stress disorder) based on military sexual trauma (MST) experienced during active service. Such specialists must only provide counseling services, guidance, and support and must not participate in the adjudication of the claim.

As part of the forms for claims for compensation for a covered mental health condition based on MST, the VA must include an option for a veteran to elect to be referred to a MST trauma coordinator at the VA facility closest to the veteran's residence.

Additionally, the VA must (1) ensure that its peer support specialists receive annual training on providing peer support regarding MST, and (2) provide annual training on the processing of claims for compensation for covered mental health conditions based on MST to its MST coordinators and peer specialists.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 22, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
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