

## S 544

A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate one week each year as "Buddy Check Week" for the purpose of outreach and education concerning peer wellness checks for veterans, and for other purposes.

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

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

**Introduced:** Mar 2, 2021

**Current Status:** Held at the desk.

**Latest Action:** Held at the desk. (Oct 8, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/544>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** IA • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (23 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		Mar 2, 2021
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Mar 2, 2021
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		Mar 2, 2021
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Mar 2, 2021
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Mar 2, 2021
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 2, 2021
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		Mar 2, 2021
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Mar 2, 2021
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Mar 2, 2021
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Mar 2, 2021
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Apr 29, 2021
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jun 8, 2021
Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]	R · ND		Jun 8, 2021
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jun 8, 2021
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Jun 8, 2021
Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]	R · AK		Jun 9, 2021
Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Jun 10, 2021
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Jun 21, 2021
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Jun 21, 2021
Sen. Hickenlooper, John W. [D-CO]	D · CO		Sep 14, 2021
Sen. Kelly, Mark [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Sep 23, 2021
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Nov 16, 2021
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Mar 2, 2022

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Oct 8, 2021

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 6411	Related bill	<b>Jul 11, 2022:</b> Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## Summary (as of Oct 7, 2021)

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to designate one week each year as Buddy Check Week for the purposes of organizing outreach events and educating veterans on how to conduct peer wellness checks. The VA shall ensure that the Veterans Crisis Line has a plan for handling the potential increase in calls that may occur during such week.

## Actions Timeline

- **Oct 8, 2021:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Oct 8, 2021:** Received in the House.
- **Oct 8, 2021:** Held at the desk.
- **Oct 7, 2021:** Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs discharged by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S6993)
- **Oct 7, 2021:** Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs discharged by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S6993)
- **Oct 7, 2021:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.(text: CR S6993)
- **Oct 7, 2021:** Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR S6993)
- **Jun 23, 2021:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 117-231.
- **Mar 2, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 2, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.