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VA Clinician Appreciation, Recruitment, Education, Expansion, and Retention Support (CAREERS) Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jan 23, 2023

Current Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute

Latest Action: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably. (Feb 16, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/10>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]

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

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Jan 23, 2023
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Jan 31, 2023
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Feb 15, 2023
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 6, 2023
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 14, 2023
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		May 1, 2023
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		May 9, 2023
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		May 18, 2023
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jun 1, 2023
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Nov 9, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Markup By	Feb 16, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 693	Related bill	Apr 18, 2023: Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
118 S 55	Related bill	Jan 24, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

VA Clinician Appreciation, Recruitment, Education, Expansion, and Retention Support (CAREERS) Act of 2023

This bill addresses Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) personnel matters and the training, recruitment, and retention of VA health care employees.

Among other requirements, the VA must

- expand various staff training efforts and programs;
- comply with certain notification and staffing requirements when a VA medical center director is on detail;
- prescribe a system of pay for individuals appointed as directors of medical centers and directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks; and
- establish a consolidated annual leave account for certain VA employees with restored leave during 2020, 2021, and 2022.

The bill also

- authorizes the VA to waive pay limitations for employees of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) who are performing mission critical work;
- increases the maximum amount of incentive pay for pharmacist executives;
- modifies the special pay authority for nurse executives and the administration of pay for VA physicians, podiatrists, optometrists, and dentists;
- authorizes a waiver of certain licensure requirements for psychologists and mental health counselors in certain circumstances;
- requires the Inspector General of the VA to study and report on the use of direct hire authority, the contributions made by the use of such authority, and any vulnerabilities or inconsistencies with respect to the use of such authority;
- includes VA police officers as law enforcement officers for purposes of the federal retirement system; and
- requires the Government Accountability Office to report on human resources modernization conducted by the VHA.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 16, 2023:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jan 23, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 23, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.