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AMERICANS Act

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

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

**Introduced:** Jan 24, 2023

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. (Jan 24, 2023)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/29>

Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]

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

Cosponsors (20 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Braun, Mike [R-IN]	R · IN		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]	R · ND		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Hawley, Josh [R-MO]	R · MO		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]	R · ND		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Hyde-Smith, Cindy [R-MS]	R · MS		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Johnson, Ron [R-WI]	R · WI		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]	R · OK		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]	R · UT		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Lummis, Cynthia M. [R-WY]	R · WY		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Marshall, Roger [R-KS]	R · KS		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Scott, Rick [R-FL]	R · FL		Jan 24, 2023
Sen. Mullin, Markwayne [R-OK]	R · OK		Feb 2, 2023
Sen. Budd, Ted [R-NC]	R · NC		Feb 14, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 24, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 453	Identical bill	Jan 24, 2023: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

Summary (as of Jan 24, 2023)

Allowing Military Exemptions, Recognizing Individual Concerns About New Shots Act of 2023 or the AMERICANS Act

This bill prohibits the Department of Defense (DOD) from issuing any COVID-19 vaccine mandate as a replacement for the rescinded vaccine mandate of August 24, 2021, unless the mandate is expressly authorized by Congress. The bill also provides that DOD must establish an application process for remedies for members of the Armed Forces who were discharged or subject to adverse action under the rescinded mandate.

Any administrative discharge of a member on the sole basis of a failure to receive a COVID-19 vaccine must be categorized as an honorable discharge, and DOD is prohibited from taking any adverse action against such a member for that reason.

Under the bill, DOD must try to retain unvaccinated members and provide such members with professional development, promotion and leadership opportunities, and consideration equal to that of their peers.

Additionally, DOD may only consider the COVID-19 vaccination status of members in making certain decisions (e.g., deployments in countries where it is the law) and must establish a process to provide exemptions to certain members for such decisions.

This bill applies to all members of the Armed Forces, regardless of whether they sought an accommodation to any DOD COVID-19 vaccination policy.

Actions Timeline

- Jan 24, 2023: Introduced in Senate
- Jan 24, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.