

## HR 3554

Protecting Veteran Community Care Act

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

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

**Introduced:** May 18, 2023

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Jun 14, 2023)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/3554>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Zinke, Ryan K. [R-MT-1]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** MT • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (21 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Bice, Stephanie I. [R-OK-5]	R · OK		May 18, 2023
Rep. Crane, Elijah [R-AZ-2]	R · AZ		May 18, 2023
Rep. Crenshaw, Dan [R-TX-2]	R · TX		May 18, 2023
Rep. Davis, Donald G. [D-NC-1]	D · NC		May 18, 2023
Rep. Finstad, Brad [R-MN-1]	R · MN		May 18, 2023
Rep. Luttrell, Morgan [R-TX-8]	R · TX		May 18, 2023
Rep. Rosendale Sr., Matthew M. [R-MT-2]	R · MT		May 18, 2023
Rep. Roy, Chip [R-TX-21]	R · TX		May 18, 2023
Rep. Steel, Michelle [R-CA-45]	R · CA		May 18, 2023
Rep. Van Drew, Jefferson [R-NJ-2]	R · NJ		May 18, 2023
Rep. Van Orden, Derrick [R-WI-3]	R · WI		May 18, 2023
Rep. Webster, Daniel [R-FL-11]	R · FL		May 18, 2023
Rep. Hern, Kevin [R-OK-1]	R · OK		May 22, 2023
Rep. Hageman, Harriet M. [R-WY-At Large]	R · WY		May 24, 2023
Rep. Mann, Tracey [R-KS-1]	R · KS		May 26, 2023
Rep. Kiggans, Jennifer A [R-VA-2]	R · VA		May 30, 2023
Rep. Luna, Anna Paulina [R-FL-13]	R · FL		May 31, 2023
Rep. Fischbach, Michelle [R-MN-7]	R · MN		Jun 5, 2023
Rep. Lawler, Michael [R-NY-17]	R · NY		Jun 5, 2023
Rep. Langworthy, Nicholas A. [R-NY-23]	R · NY		Jul 26, 2023
Rep. D'Esposito, Anthony [R-NY-4]	R · NY		Jul 22, 2024

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 14, 2023

## Subjects & Policy Tags

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### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 1745	Identical bill	<b>May 18, 2023:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

### Summary (as of May 18, 2023)

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#### Protecting Veteran Community Care Act

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish residential mental health or substance-use services to certain veterans through the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP). Specifically, the VA must furnish such care if a veteran (1) meets VA criteria for priority admission to a VA Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program and the VA is unable to accommodate priority admission, or (2) has contacted the VA to request such mental health services and the VA is not able to furnish such services in a manner that complies with VA access standards for specialty care provided under the VCCP.

The VA must ensure that a referral to an alternate Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program does not take precedence over timely access to mental health or substance-use services unless the referral is requested by the veteran.

The VA is prohibited from determining a veteran is ineligible for VCCP care solely because VCCP providers are unable to comply with wait times or access standards.

If multiple options for care or services are available, the VA must permit a veteran to elect the option the veteran prefers.

Additionally, the bill provides minimum standards for residential mental health or substance-use services provided under the VCCP (e.g., treatment programs or facilities must be licensed and accredited for the specified services).

#### Actions Timeline

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- **Jun 14, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **May 18, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **May 18, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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