

S 117

AMERICANS Act

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jan 16, 2025

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 16, 2025)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/117>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		Jan 16, 2025
Sen. Britt, Katie Boyd [R-AL]	R · AL		Jan 16, 2025
Sen. Budd, Ted [R-NC]	R · NC		Jan 16, 2025
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Jan 16, 2025
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Jan 16, 2025
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Jan 16, 2025
Sen. Hawley, Josh [R-MO]	R · MO		Jan 16, 2025
Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]	R · ND		Jan 16, 2025
Sen. Johnson, Ron [R-WI]	R · WI		Jan 16, 2025
Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]	R · UT		Jan 16, 2025
Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Jan 16, 2025
Sen. Scott, Rick [R-FL]	R · FL		Jan 16, 2025
Sen. Sheehy, Tim [R-MT]	R · MT		Jan 16, 2025
Sen. Justice, James C. [R-WV]	R · WV		Mar 4, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 16, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 HR 511	Identical bill	Jan 16, 2025: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

Summary (as of Jan 16, 2025)

Allowing Military Exemptions, Recognizing Individual Concerns About New Shots Act of 2025 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This bill prohibits the Department of Defense (DOD) from issuing any COVID-19 vaccine mandate as a replacement for the rescinded vaccine mandate of August 24, 2021, unless the mandate is expressly authorized by Congress.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process for remedies for members of the Armed Forces who were discharged or subject to adverse action under the rescinded mandate.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.

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.

Members who were separated from the Armed Forces for refusing to receive a COVID-19 vaccine are not required to repay any bonuses and must be reimbursed if they repaid any portion of a bonus prior to this bill's enactment.

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

