

S 219

Veterans Health Care Freedom Act

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jan 23, 2025

Current Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 119-86.

Latest Action: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 119-86. (May 21, 2025)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/219>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]

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

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]	R · ND		Jan 23, 2025
Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]	R · TX		Jan 23, 2025
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Jan 23, 2025
Sen. Sheehy, Tim [R-MT]	R · MT		Jan 23, 2025
Sen. Tuberville, Tommy [R-AL]	R · AL		Jan 23, 2025
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Jan 23, 2025
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Jun 10, 2025
Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]	R · AK		Apr 14, 2026

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	May 21, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 S 1545	Cross-Congress related bill	Jul 12, 2023: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 118-217.
119 S 3603	Cross-Congress related bill	Feb 8, 2022: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Veterans Health Care Freedom Act

This bill requires the Center for Innovation for Care and Payment within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement a three-year pilot program to provide veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system with the ability to choose health care providers through the covered care system. Under the bill, the *covered care system* includes VA medical facilities, health care providers participating in the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP), and eligible entities or providers that have entered into a Veterans Care Agreement.

A veteran participating in the program may elect to receive care at any provider in the covered care system.

The pilot program removes certain requirements (e.g., location of the veteran) to access care at VA and non-VA facilities. After four years, the bill permanently phases out the requirements for accessing care under the VCCP and Veterans Care Agreements and requires the VA to provide such care under the same conditions of the pilot program. Additionally, after four years, veterans may receive care at a VA medical facility regardless of whether the facility is in the same Veterans Integrated Service Network as the veteran.

Actions Timeline

- **May 21, 2025:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 119-86.
- **May 21, 2025:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.
- **Jan 23, 2025:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 23, 2025:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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