

[Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2017 \(HR 1427 / S 591, 115th Congress\)](#)

Expands eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, expands benefits available to participants under such program, and enhances special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life.

Updated last **March 22, 2017**

for the 03/09/2017 versions of HR 1472 and S 591.

WHAT IT DOES

[HR 1472](#) and the textually equivalent [S 591](#), the Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2017, would expand the eligibility for the Department of Veterans Affairs's family caregiver program to include families of veterans who were seriously injured or became ill prior to September 11, 2001. Per the bill, a "serious injury or illness" includes "traumatic brain injury, psychological trauma, or other mental disorder[s]".

The bill would also establish a special monthly compensation for veterans who suffered or incurred a serious injury or illness (as defined above) while on the line of duty, and who need "personal care services" as a result of those injuries or illnesses. A similar special monthly compensation will also exist for family caregivers of veterans with serious injuries or illnesses.

STATUS

HR 1472 was introduced in the House on March 9, 2017, where it was referred to the following House committees on the same date:

- [Committee on Veterans' Affairs](#)
- [Committee on Armed Services](#)
- [Oversight & Government Reform Committee](#)
- [Energy and Commerce Committee](#)

S 591 was introduced in the Senate on March 9, 2017, where it was referred to the [Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs](#) on the same date.

RELATED POLICIES

In December 2016, the Department of Veterans Affairs released a [proposed rule](#) called "Special Monthly Compensation for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury" ([SciPol brief available](#)). This rule would clarify the exact monetary amount of special monthly compensation awarded to veterans who suffered a traumatic brain injury while on the line of duty. The comment period for this rule closed in February 2017.

SPONSORS

HR 1472

Sponsor: [Representative James R. Langevin](#) (D-RI-2)

Cosponsors:

- [Representative Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen](#) (R-American Samoa-at large)
- [Representative Joyce Beatty](#) (D-OH-3)
- [Representative Anthony G. Brown](#) (D-MD-4)
- [Representative Julia Brownley](#) (D-CA-26)
- [Representative Steve Cohen](#) (D-TN-9)
- [Representative Elizabeth H. Esty](#) (D-CT-5)
- [Representative Dwight Evans](#) (D-PA-2)
- [Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham](#) (D-NM-1)
- [Representative Colleen Hanabusa](#) (D-HI-1)
- [Representative Alcee L. Hastings](#) (D-FL-20)
- [Representative Shelia Jackson Lee](#) (D-TX-18)
- [Representative Marcy Kaptur](#) (D-OH-9)
- [Representative Brenda L. Lawrence](#) (D-MI-14)
- [Representative Stephen F. Lynch](#) (D-MA-8)
- [Representative Gwen Moore](#) (D-WI-4)
- [Representative Jacky Rosen](#) (D-NV-3)
- [Representative Bobby L. Rush](#) (D-IL-1)
- [Representative Tim Ryan](#) (D-OH-13)
- [Representative Carol Shea-Porter](#) (D-NH-1)
- [Representative Krysten Sinema](#) (D-AZ-9)
- [Representative Darren Soto](#) (D-FL-9)
- [Representative Mark Takano](#) (D-CA-41)
- [Representative Timothy J. Walz](#) (D-MN-1)
- [Representative Don Young](#) (R-AK-at large)
- [Representative C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger](#) (D-MD-2)
- [Representative David N. Cicilline](#) (D-RI-1)
- [Representative Jamie Raskin](#) (D-MD-8)
- [Representative Nancy Pelosi](#) (D-CA-12)
- [Representative Gus M. Bilirakis](#) (R-FL-12)

S 591

Sponsor: [Senator Patty Murray](#) (D-WA)

Cosponsors:

- [Senator Susan M. Collins](#) (R-ME)
- [Senator Tammy Baldwin](#) (D-WI)
- [Senator Michael F. Bennet](#) (D-CO)
- [Senator Richard Blumenthal](#) (D-CT)
- [Senator Sherrod Brown](#) (D-OH)
- [Senator Christopher A. Coons](#) (D-DE)
- [Senator Richard J. Durbin](#) (D-IL)
- [Senator Al Franken](#) (D-MN)
- [Senator Angus S. King, Jr.](#) (I-ME)
- [Senator Christopher Murphy](#) (D-CT)
- [Senator Brian Schatz](#) (D-HI)
- [Senator Bernard Sanders](#) (I-VT)
- [Senator Jeanne Shaheen](#) (D-NH)

- [Senator Jon Tester](#) (D-MT)
- [Senator Mark R. Warner](#) (D-VA)
- [Senator Maria Cantwell](#) (D-WA)