

Cosponsor and Support the Bipartisan Daniel J. Harvey, Jr. and Adam Lambert Improving Servicemember Transition to Reduce Veteran Suicide Act (H.R. 2878/S. 2096)

Facts



6,398 veterans died by suicide in 2023, the most recent year for which data are available.¹



Proactive support and education for veterans and service members helps prevent suicide. By teaching service members and veterans about **risk factors**, and helping veterans receive **mental health support**, we can save lives.



In 2023, suicide was the 12th leading cause of death among veterans. Among veterans who recently received care through the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), it was the 15th leading cause of death. Care for veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and community providers can **prevent suicide and improve behavioral health outcomes**.²



The Department of Defense (DoD) and VA work hard to support veterans as they transition to civilian life. **This bill will build on that important work.**



Educating service members who are preparing to separate from the Armed Forces helps prepare them for the challenges they may face in civilian life and **build resiliency to protect against risk factors for suicide.**

About the Bill

The Improving Servicemember Transition to Reduce Veteran Suicide Act will help prevent suicide by enabling veterans to recognize suicide risk factors and seek behavioral health support.

Specifically, the bill would:

- Direct the DoD to **expand the Transition Assistance Program** and inform service members preparing to separate from the Armed Forces about the related behavioral health risks, including risk factors for suicide
- Direct the VA to **expand the Solid Start Program** and assist eligible veterans with mental health and counseling service coordination
- Through these actions, the Improving Servicemember Transition to Reduce Veteran Suicide Act will **help veterans recognize the risk factors for suicide and seek behavioral health support**

Educating service members and veterans as they separate from the Armed Forces helps them seek care, supporting their mental health and helping prevent suicide.

¹ 2025 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report (2026). Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs. mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/data.asp

² Ibid.



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H.R. 2878 Status

Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Cosponsors

Rep. Zach Nunn (R-IA-3) – Original Sponsor

Rep. Seth Magaziner (D-RI-2) – Original Cosponsor

Rep. Gabe Amo (D-RI-1)

Rep. Ed Case (D-HI-1)

Rep. Jay Obernolte (R-CA-23)

Rep. Eugene Vindman (D-VA-7)

Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY-6)

Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA-2)

Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO-6)

Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO-2)

Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet (D-MI-8)

Rep. Laura Gillen (D-NY-4)

Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV-3)

S. 2096 Status

Referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Cosponsors

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) – Original Sponsor

Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) – Original Cosponsor

Sen. Angus King (I-ME) – Original Cosponsor

Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) – Original Cosponsor

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) – Original Cosponsor

Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) – Original Cosponsor

Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) – Original Cosponsor

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) – Original Cosponsor

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) – Original Cosponsor

Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ)

Sen. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM)

Sen. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)