

# U.S. Sen. Johnson: Right to Try bill passes Senate

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**WASHINGTON** — U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, released the following statement after his right to try bill passed the Senate unanimously Thursday:

“By passing the Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2017 today, the Senate took a strong stand in support of the millions of Americans and their families suffering from terminal illnesses. Patients with terminal diseases ought to have a right to access treatments that have demonstrated a level of safety and could potentially save their lives. I’m proud that today, the Senate stood up for terminally ill patients who just want to reclaim their freedom – who want the right to hope. Among many others, I thank Chairman Lamar Alexander, Sen. Joe Donnelly and the Goldwater Institute for their support for this legislation. I strongly urge Speaker Ryan and the House to quickly take up this legislation and send this bill to the president’s desk for his signature.”

The bill as amended and passed can be found [here](#).

Vice-President Pence and the White House also indicated their [support of right to try](#) earlier this year.

37 states have passed right to try bills on an overwhelming bipartisan basis.

Details on Johnson’s right to try work can be found below:

**Feb. 18, 2016:** Johnson's letter to the FDA can be found [here](#).

**Feb. 25, 2016:** Johnson held a hearing on [connecting patients to new and potential life saving treatments](#).

**Feb. 25, 2016:** Johnson expressed his [support for right to try](#).

**March 16, 2016:** Letter from Sens. Johnson, Carper, Donnelly and Coats to the FDA on can be found [here](#).

**April 26, 2016:** Johnson's statement on an FDA panel not approving eteplirsen can be found [here](#).

**May 10, 2016:** Johnson introduced the [Trickett Wendler Right to Try Act](#).

**May 23, 2016:** Johnson's and Sen. Coats' letter to the FDA can be found [here](#).

**June 16, 2016:** Johnson [advocates for right to try legislation](#) at a Capitol Hill rally.

**Sept. 16, 2016:** Johnson's and Sen. Alexander's letter to the FDA can be found [here](#).

**Sept. 19, 2016:** Johnson [letter to FDA Commissioner Califf](#) expressing disappointment at his refusal to testify at a right to try hearing.

**Sept. 19, 2016:** [Johnson applauds an FDA decision](#) to approve eteplirsen to treat Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

**Sept. 22, 2016:** Johnson held a [hearing on right to try](#).

**Sept. 22, 2016:** Johnson [calls on fellow senators to pass bill](#) to give terminally ill patients hope.

**Sept. 26, 2016:** Johnson [calls on Senate](#) to support right to try legislation.

**Sept. 28, 2016:** [Johnson criticizes partisan blocking](#) of bill for terminally ill patients.

**Sept. 29, 2016:** Johnson [corrects the record](#) in letter to Minority Leader Reid after right to try bill is blocked.

**Oct. 24, 2016:** After FDA's silence, [Johnson presses HHS for answers](#) on right to try laws.

**Nov. 16, 2016:** 44<sup>th</sup> senator [co-sponsors legislation](#) giving terminally ill patients hope.

**Jan. 24, 2017:** Johnson [re-introduces](#) Trickett Wendler Right to Try Act with 39 original co-sponsors.