

U.S. Sen. Johnson: Statement on expected Right to Try vote in the House

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WASHINGTON — Senator Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, has this to say following the House Majority Leader's announcement that a vote would occur next week on Senator Johnson's right to try bill, S. 204, which passed the Senate unanimously last August.

"For years, terminally ill patients and their families have been fighting for the right to hope and the freedom to try to save their own lives. I truly appreciate today's announcement that House leadership plans to advance this effort by taking up my bill that passed the Senate unanimously. I specifically would like to thank Representatives Andy Biggs and Brian Fitzpatrick for their hard work and steadfast dedication to the right to try effort. Passing right to try will provide freedom to terminally ill patients and restore lost hope to them and their families."

The Johnson-Donnelly bill that passed the Senate by unanimous consent on Aug. 3, 2017, can be found [here](#).

Forty states already have passed right to try bills on an overwhelmingly 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: 44th 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.

Oct. 2, 2017: Johnson and Donnely [write letter](#) to House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Feb. 2, 2018: [President Trump](#) encourages Congress to pass right to try.

March 21, 2018: [Johnson statement](#) on House passage of House version of right to try.

March 23, 2018: Johnson [calls on House to pass S. 204](#) after House right to try bill fails in the Senate.