

Veterans Supporting Prosthetics Opportunities and Recreational Therapy (SPORT) Act

(H.R. 1971)



ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROSTHETICS

Empower Veterans to Thrive, Not Just Survive

Prosthetic devices play a critical role in helping veterans with limb loss regain independence and quality of life. While the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides prosthetics as part of its medical benefits package, current law limits access to specialized prosthetic devices designed for sports and recreation. These devices support long-term recovery by promoting physical activity overall well-being — yet many remain out of reach without expanded VA coverage.

★ THE ISSUE:

Life After Limb Loss

- ✓ Veterans who participate in adaptive sports report lower rates of depression, anxiety, and chronic illness, along with higher workforce participation and social engagement.
- ✓ Specialized prosthetics for activities like running, swimming, cycling, and climbing are often too costly for many veterans without expanded VA coverage.
- ✓ Current law restricts VA from providing recreational prosthetics unless deemed a “direct and active component” of medical treatment, not merely for comfort, convenience, or the opportunity to pursue healthy activities that go beyond a specific rehabilitation plan.

FAST FACTS: POST-9/11 VETERAN PROSTHETICS BY THE NUMBERS



Nearly 3,000 Service members have lost limbs due to injuries in post-9/11 conflicts.



About 85% were under 35 at injury, resulting in lifelong prosthetic and rehabilitation needs.

★ THE SOLUTION:

Advance the Veterans Supporting Prosthetics Opportunities and Recreational Therapy (SPORT) Act

Original Sponsor:

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA-01)

- Expands VA coverage: Adds sports and recreational prosthetics to VA’s standard medical services, removing the need for special authorization.
- Supports holistic recovery: Gives veterans access to prosthetics that enable participation in fitness, recreation, and sports — not just daily activities.
- Improves physical and mental health: Promotes active lifestyles that help prevent secondary health issues like obesity and diabetes, while enhancing mental well-being.

Special note: H.R. 1971 was advanced by the House of Representatives as part of the No Wrong Door Act (H.R. 1969, Sect. 3) on May 22, 2025.

★ Veterans deserve prosthetic care that enables them to thrive, not just survive.

Wounded Warrior Project® calls on Congress to advance the Veterans SPORT Act (H.R. 1971) and increase access to adaptive sports and recreation that promote healing in body and mind.