



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Chairman Phil Roe, M.D.

H.R. 3696: The Wounded Warrior Workforce Enhancement Act

Background:

The National Commission on Orthotics and Prosthetics Education released a study in June 2015 that found that, by 2025, the overall pool of credentialed and privileged orthotic and prosthetic providers would need to increase by 60% to meet the demand for care. This coming lack of qualified orthotic and prosthetic providers poses a particular challenge for veterans, who have a high incidence of conditions that require orthotic/prosthetic care and who receive much of their orthotic/prosthetic care through community providers.

H.R. 3696 would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to award grants to eligible institutions to: (1) establish a master's degree program in orthotics and prosthetics or expand upon an existing master's degree program in such area, and (2) establish the Center of Excellence in Orthotic and Prosthetic Education to improve outcomes by conducting research.

The Message:

- By 2025, the overall pool of credentialed and privileged orthotic and prosthetic providers would need to increase by 60 percent to meet the demand for care.
- This provider shortage presents a challenge to VA, who serves a population that has a high incidence of conditions that require orthotic or prosthetic care.
- This legislation will direct VA to award grants to establish a master's degree program in orthotics and prosthetics or expand upon an existing master's degree program in such area. It also directs the establishment of a Center of Excellence for Orthotic and Prosthetic Education.