



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

Chairman Phil Roe, M.D.

H.R. 1725: The Quicker Veterans Benefits Delivery Act of 2017

Background:

When a veteran applies for disability benefits, they can either schedule an in-person medical examination with VA, which may have a long wait time, or submit private medical evidence in support of their claim for disability benefits. If the department determines that the veteran's existing medical records contain sufficient evidence to decide the claim, VA may decide the claim without ordering a new disability examination.

During an April 5, 2017, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs hearing, The American Legion testified that it had documented many instances of VA scheduling unnecessary and duplicative examinations with a VA physician even though the veteran had already submitted sufficient medical evidence from a private physician to decide the claim.

H.R. 1725, as amended, seeks to reduce the number of unnecessary disability examinations by requiring additional information be provided to Congress regarding VA's use of private medical evidence in support of claims for disability compensation.

The Message:

- Veterans seeking disability benefits deserve to have their claims decided in a timely manner.
- Duplicative medical examinations add unnecessary delays and cost to the disability claims process.
- This legislation would improve the timeliness for those VA compensation examinations conducted by VA physicians.
- Reducing the number of disability examinations conducted by VA physicians would allow such medical professionals to devote more resources to providing care for our nation's veterans.