



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Republicans | Ranking Member Phil Roe, M.D.

H.R. 2196: To amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce the credit hour requirement for the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program of the Department of Veterans Affairs

Background:

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also known as the “Forever GI Bill,” created the Edith Nourse Rogers Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Scholarship. The Nourse Scholarship provides an additional nine months - of GI bill eligibility – or up to \$30,000 in benefits - to student veterans pursuing a STEM degree. Current law mandates that for a veteran to utilize the Nourse Scholarship they must be enrolled in a STEM program that exceeds 128 required credit hours. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has found that there are only three states where the average STEM degree exceeds 128 required credit hours. As such, this bill would eliminate that requirement in the Nourse Scholarship to ensure that more student veterans pursuing STEM degrees are able to utilize the additional funding Congress provided for them in the Forever GI Bill.

The Message:

- This bill would ensure that the scholarship program Congress provided for student veterans in STEM programs can be used in the way Congress intended and - more importantly - ensure that student veterans in these important degree programs receive the support they need to pursue their dreams.
- This program helps student veterans who often need to take additional credit hours to brush up on critical math or science skills necessary for success in a STEM program.