



## H.R. 3169: VA Acquisition Workforce Improvement and Streamlining Act

### Background:

Construction and supply chain mismanagement are serious, widespread problems at the Department of Veterans Affairs, where delays and budget overruns on VA construction projects extend well beyond the high-profile Aurora, Colo. medical center debacle to smaller construction projects throughout the country. Outside experts have documented that VA's logistics organization is struggling to manage its medical supply chain and modernize the computer systems that underpin it. Both of these problems are caused in part by inadequate training of VA's construction and facilities management workforce. At the same time, the federal workforce is aging rapidly, and VA is not prepared to replace its seasoned employees in construction, logistics and other acquisition career fields as the department's current employees retire at increasingly high rates.

Additionally, VA acquisition has long been mired by bureaucratic inefficiencies. The [Choice Act Independent Assessment](#) found widespread concern among VA employees about the multitude of different contracting organizations performing similar functions and failing to perform to expectations. [GAO also uncovered](#) too many types of confusing policy coming from different places in the department. These processes must be streamlined.

The VA Acquisition Workforce Improvement and Streamlining Act would require VA to create career certification programs for construction and logistics employees, which would be in line with similar programs at the Department of Defense. It would also extend VA's career certification for contracting officers to VA's logistics workers and construction managers as well. Furthermore, the bill would direct VA to expand its acquisition intern programs to bring new college graduates and recent veterans into VA to replace retiring employees. The bill pays for these workforce improvements by consolidating redundant acquisition bureaucracy.

### The Message

- VA's workforce is rapidly aging, and VA is not prepared to replace its seasoned employees in acquisition career fields like construction or logistics.
- VA acquisition has long been mired by bureaucratic inefficiencies.
- This bill streamlines VA's processes for workforce acquisition and addresses VA's continued mismanagement of its supply chain and construction projects.
- It also improves job training for logistics workers and construction managers and encourages the recruitment of new college graduates and recent veterans for these jobs.