



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Chairman Phil Roe, M.D.

H.R. 512: The WINGMAN Act

Background:

When veterans reach out to their congressional office for help with claims, it can take weeks or months for a Congressional caseworker to receive information from VA. Without access to the electronic Veterans Benefits Administration claims system, it is more difficult for constituent service representatives to track claims.

The WINGMAN Act will allow constituent service representatives direct access to these electronic files, which would allow them to keep veterans better updated on the status of their claims.

The bill allows designated permanent, full time Congressional staffers to look up the status of the claim on VA's database—but only if the veteran has given the staffer permission. Staffers would have read-only access to VA's databases—meaning they wouldn't be able to add or remove any information.

The Message:

- The WINGMAN Act will make it easier and faster for Congressional offices to help veterans receive information about their VA claims.
- The bill will improve the efficiency of Congressional caseworkers by eliminating the burdensome step of having to use the VA as a middle-man to access veterans' information.
- The bill would improve VA's management of caseloads by enabling Congressional staffers to provide their constituents with status reports.
- This bipartisan legislation will help all congressional offices better serve their veteran constituents.