



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

*Chairman Phil Roe, M.D.*

## **The Veterans' Education, Transition, and Opportunity Prioritization Plan (VET OPP) Act of 2018**

### **Background:**

One of the most important things Congress can do to help returning servicemembers reintegrate back into civilian life is to support and prioritize programs that help them find meaningful employment or education and training opportunities. Unfortunately, the efforts of dedicated VA employees tasked with administering important educational and employment benefits like the GI Bill or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) are often blocked by bureaucratic red tape or overshadowed by VA's myriad of missions.

The VET OPP Act would realign the transition, education and employment programs at VA under one roof to streamline services to veterans and place a greater priority on opportunity-based programs within VA. This new Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration would be accountable to an appointed undersecretary and would be created using existing resources at VA to avoid the growth of government and additional bureaucracy.

### **The Message:**

- For decades, we have allowed VA to prioritize other benefits and services at the expense of the programs that empower veterans to successfully transition and continue to be self-sustainable.
- This bill would realign the transition, education and employment programs at VA under one roof to streamline services to veterans and place a greater priority on opportunity-based programs within VA.
- By creating the new Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, we would ensure that VA education, training and employment programs collaborate efficiently and provide better services to veterans.
- We owe it to the 1% of Americans who have defended our freedom to ensure that they receive high quality education and transition services when they come home.