



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

H.R. 6092: Veteran's Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act

Background:

Veterans are diagnosed with prostate cancer at twice the rate of the general population and prostate cancer is the number one most commonly diagnosed cancer in male veterans, with an estimated 1 in 5 male veterans expected to be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime compared to 1 in 9 men generally. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), approximately 15,000 of the 50,000 veterans who are diagnosed with and treated for cancer within the VA health care system every year have prostate cancer and more than 16,000 veterans are currently living with metastatic prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is also considered a presumptive condition related to exposure to Agent Orange, meaning that veterans who served in certain areas in certain times are automatically presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange during their military service and, therefore, may be qualified to receive disability compensation from VA if they develop prostate cancer.

The Veteran's Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act is intended to streamline the diagnosis of prostate cancer within the VA healthcare system so that veterans can benefit from early detection and intervention, which can be lifesaving. The bill would establish a national clinical pathway for prostate cancer and ensure it is updated annually in accordance with best practices in diagnosis and treatment. It would also require VA to establish a comprehensive prostate cancer program and national prostate cancer registry.

The Message:

- Early cancer detection and intervention saves lives. With prostate cancer being the leading cancer diagnosis in male veterans, it is imperative that veterans and VA clinicians have access to the most effective prostate cancer research and clinical guidelines.
- The Veteran's Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act would ensure that VA provides world class prostate cancer care to our nation's veterans and leads the way in identifying a cure for this deadly disease.