



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

**H.R. 6322: The Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 & The Disabled Veterans Education Relief Act**

*04/28/2020 Became Public Law No: 116-140*

**Background:**

Many colleges and universities across the United States are temporarily closing campuses and transitioning to online coursework in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This sudden transition has caused some confusion among both student veterans and colleges and universities who have large numbers of GI Bill beneficiaries. Under current law, student veteran's work-study allowances, vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits, and GI bill entitlement, are not protected during emergency situations.

This package would preserve the work study program by allowing the Secretary to continue to pay student veterans, safeguarding vocational rehabilitation and employment, and further protect GI Bill benefits for students during emergency situations, such as the one our nation is currently experiencing. Further, this bill would also ensure that students whose schools close and cannot transition to an online curriculum will be able to use and maintain their GI Bill eligibility next semester at a different college or university.

**The Message:**

- Ensuring that our student veterans continue to receive the benefits they have earned during this public health crisis is the right thing to do.
- Student veterans and their families relying on the GI Bill to attend college and make ends meet should not be stripped of their benefits because schools close their doors and move to online classes to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.
- This package would allow VA to further maintain the status quo for our student veterans and other GI Bill beneficiaries in an effort to calm any fears students may be having during this unprecedented time.