



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Republicans | Ranking Member Phil Roe, M.D.

H.R. 7111: The Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2020

Background:

In 2019, the veteran unemployment rate was 3.1%, the lowest in 19 years. However, following the COVID-19 pandemic, the veteran unemployment rose to 11% in April 2020. The unemployment rate for post 9/11 veteran women reached 20% in April 2020, compared to 15.5% for non-veteran women. The centerpiece of the Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2020 would be the creation of a rapid retraining program to provide unemployed veterans and reservists with 12 months of educational benefits, to pursue training in high-demand occupations. The education benefits available under the rapid retraining program would be equivalent to the benefits provided under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. To be eligible to participate in the rapid retraining program, veterans must:

- Be between the ages of 25-60;
- Be unemployed on the day of application;
- Have an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge;
- Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit;
- Not be enrolled in another Federal or State job training program;
- Not be receiving disability compensation for reasons that have led to un-employability; and
- Not be in receipt of any unemployment benefit when they begin training under this program.

Members of the National Guard or Reserve who were called up on Federal orders to assist states with the COVID-19 response would also be eligible for the rapid retraining program as long as they meet other age, unemployment, discharge requirements. The bill would also incorporate provisions of H.R. 5766, which was introduced by House Republican Leader McCarthy, to make needed improvements to the VET Tec pilot program and of H.R. 2326, to help veterans and servicemembers transition to civilian life.

The Message:

- We have perhaps no greater calling than the calling to help those who have served live their version of the American dream once they hang up their uniforms.
- Our veterans are dedicated, talented, hard-working leaders, as employers around the world can attest to, which is why their unique skillset would be valuable in any of the high-demand fields employers are looking to fill positions.
- By focusing on veterans between the ages of 25-60 who don't have eligibility for the GI Bill, we are investing in their future by providing them with the skills they need in their prime working years to thrive and be employed in the post-COVID economy.