



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

H.R. 846: The Veterans Serving Veterans Act of 2019

Background:

Employment shortly after separation from the military is beneficial for veterans from both a financial and psychological perspective. Each year, thousands of former military health care providers from all branches of the Armed Services separate from the military and, despite their training and experience, do not possess a civilian certificate allowing them to continue in the occupations for which they were trained.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is facing significant staffing shortages in many occupations. These shortages are exacerbated by the arduous hiring process utilized by VA, resulting in a time lag between the need for and filling of a position.

To address this, VHA instituted a pilot program to recruit, train and certify recently separated servicemembers to serve as "Intermediate Care Technicians" (ICT) in VA medical facilities.

This legislation would expand on that pilot program and increase veteran employment across the VA healthcare system by requiring VA to identify the military occupation specialties (MOS') that correlate with open positions within VA, to coordinate with the Department of Defense to identify soon-to-be-separated servicemembers and to add their relevant information to VA's recruiting database, and to establish a program to recruit, train and certify former military medics to work as ICTs at VA medical facilities.

The Message:

- Employment shortly after separation from the military is beneficial for veterans from both a financial and psychological perspective.
- Currently, VA faces significant staffing shortages in many occupations that could be filled by recently separated servicemembers.
- This legislation will require VA to identify and recruit soon-to-be-separated servicemembers based on their military occupational specialties.
- This legislation would require the expansion of a successful pilot program that recruits, trains, and certifies former military medics as intermediate care technicians.