



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Republicans | Ranking Member Phil Roe, M.D.

The Veteran Benefits Enhancement and Expansion Act of 2020

Background:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides education, home loan, burial, survivor, compensation, pension, and other benefits to millions of veterans and their families each year. These benefits are earned through military service and are intended to support veterans and their families in successfully pursuing their piece of the American dream as civilians. During the widespread public health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is vital that Congress ensure that veterans and their families can more effectively access those benefits, which may be needed more than ever before.

The Veteran Benefits Enhancement and Expansion Act of 2020 is omnibus legislation that includes provisions from bipartisan proposals introduced in the House and Senate to improve the provision of benefits to veterans and others that VA is tasked with serving. To help connect veterans and their dependents with higher education programs, the bill would expand in-state tuition benefits to all those using the Post-9/11 GI Bill and simplify the process by which servicemembers enroll in the Montgomery GI Bill. To support veterans seeking compensation for disabilities incurred while serving in uniform, the bill would require VA to publish disability benefits questionnaires on the Department's website for veterans to use with their private providers, codify VA's practice of allowing certain non-physician providers to conduct disability exams under contract with VA, and extend license portability to eligible non-physician examiners. The bill would also modernize VA's Service-Disabled Veterans Life Insurance program and provide an increase in certain VA burial benefits, among other important provisions.

The Message:

- No veteran should be met with bureaucratic red tape once they leave military service and seek the benefits they have earned.
- The Veteran Benefits Enhancement and Expansion Act of 2020 is the right thing to do to ensure, veterans, survivors, and their families of all eras can take advantage of a well-run benefits system.
- The Veteran Benefits Enhancement and Expansion Act of 2020 is a compilation of bipartisan, bicameral bills that would ensure that veterans can access the benefits they have earned on behalf of a grateful nation.