

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

REPUBLICANS | RANKING MEMBER MIKE BOST

The VA Principles of Benefits Automation Act

Background:

Since the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) was established in 1930, Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have made needed improvements to ensure VBA keeps pace with modern technological advancements. However, as technology continues to evolve, VBA has failed to keep pace, causing veterans to suffer. The inefficient, outdated, and dysfunctional IT systems that VBA employs today hinder veterans from receiving the benefits they have earned and prevent hardworking VBA employees from delivering the level of service veterans deserve.

The VA Principles of Benefits Automation Act would prioritize the modernization of VBA's IT systems by requiring VA to provide Congress with a plan to improve them over the next five years. It would also establish a resolution to set guiding principles for VBA's use of advanced technology for benefits claims processing. This bill would ensure that any modernization efforts VBA undergoes use automation to increase the speed and accuracy of claims processing decisions. It would also make clear that final ratings decisions on claims should always be rendered by an employee, not an IT system.

The Message:

- For far too long veterans have had to navigate an outdated and needlessly complex system to get the benefits they have earned from VBA.
- Improving benefits IT systems through the *VA Principles of Benefits Automation Act* will allow veterans to receive quicker, more accurate claims decisions.
- *The Principles of Benefits Automation Act* will pave the way for future action to streamline the claims process for generations of veterans.