

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
PROUDLY SERVING AMERICA'S VETERANS



The VA Prescription Drug Accountability Act

Background:

Under current law, when Veterans Health Administration (VHA) providers prescribe a controlled substance, VHA is required to disclose that information to the appropriate state controlled substance monitoring program. Due to VistA's (VA's electronic health record backbone) inability to differentiate between dependents and other non-veterans, VHA is currently only transmitting data for veteran patients, leaving out approximately 10% of VHA's patient population who are dependents or other non-veterans who meet certain qualifications to receive prescriptions from VHA.

The VA Prescription Drug Accountability Act would clarify current law to stipulate that VHA is required to disclose information to state controlled substance monitoring programs for anyone – veteran or non-veteran – who is prescribed these medications through VA.

The Message:

- The opioid epidemic affects veterans and non-veterans alike.
- We must take every necessary precaution to ensure patients are aware of the dangers of opioid addiction.
- This bipartisan bill would ensure patient information for both veterans and non-veterans is shared with state prescription monitoring programs.
- This legislation would improve VA's current internal monitoring and information-sharing practices of prescription drugs.
- Partnering with states helps prevent the over-prescribing of narcotics.