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COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Jeff Miller, Chairman, 335 Cannon House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515

IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 19, 2012

CONTACT: Amy Mitchell (202) 225-3527

Miller, Johnson, Roe Introduce VA Fiduciary Reform Act of 2012

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, Rep. Jeff Miller, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Rep. Bill Johnson, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, and Rep. Phil Roe, issued the following statement on the introduction of the [Veterans Fiduciary Reform Act of 2012 \(H.R. 5948\)](#):

“As Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am dedicated to ensuring VA is responsible to the very people it serves,” stated Rep. Jeff Miller. “VA has ignored these problems for far too long and has allowed reckless behavior to pervade the system, and we have yet to see any meaningful reforms. Therefore, the Veterans Fiduciary Reform Act will require VA to clean up its fiduciary program by implementing new accounting practices and increasing transparency to the veteran. This legislation, the result of years of oversight, will better protect our veterans and their earned benefits.”

“For too long, [VA fiduciaries have abused the system and subverted the rights of the veterans they were entrusted to protect](#), in some cases for personal gain,” stated Rep. Bill Johnson, sponsor of H.R. 5948. “This program has long been in need of reform. Our veterans and their families must trust VA and its agents to act lawfully and ethically on their behalf, and yet time and again, that trust has been broken, despite VA's claims to the contrary.”

“The Veterans Fiduciary Reform Act of 2012 will mandate that all VA fiduciaries go through a background and credit check. This legislation also institutes an appeals process to ensure that veterans and their families have recourse should they lose confidence in a VA-appointed fiduciary. Furthermore, this bill will add a layer of protection to a veteran's savings, and in cases of misfeasance, VA will ensure monies are returned to the veteran,” said Johnson.

“Too many veterans have been poorly treated under this program by the very people entrusted to protect them,” said Rep. Phil Roe. “[It is clear that VA has lost control of the program, its employees, and there is no accountability or leadership](#). This begs the question, who is manning the ship? We will not, and cannot, tolerate any veteran being mistreated by VA-appointed fiduciaries. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to pass this legislation quickly and begin enactment immediately.”

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