



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Chairman Phil Roe, M.D.

H.R. 1328: The American Heroes COLA Act of 2017

Background:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a range of benefits for veterans. While Social Security benefits are automatically adjusted whenever the Department of Labor determines that there is an increase in the cost-of-living, Congress must pass legislation every year to increase the rates of veteran disability compensation.

The American Heroes COLA Act of 2017 would ensure that whenever Social Security recipients receive a COLA, the VA Secretary is authorized to provide an automatic cost-of-living adjustment for compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities. The bill would also authorize an automatic increase in the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans without having to seek annual congressional authorization.

The Message:

- We owe it to our veterans, especially those injured in battle, to help them cope with rising inflation.
- Veterans receiving disability compensation should not have to go to Congress to get a cost-of-living adjustment for the benefits they deserve.
- This legislation would streamline the process of providing veterans and their beneficiaries with cost-of-living adjustments.