



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

Chairman Phil Roe, M.D.

H.R. 5674: The Department of Veterans Affairs Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks "MISSION" Act

Background:

The Department of Veterans Affairs Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks, or VA MISSION Act, includes three pieces of legislation that have been considered by either the House or Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs. The bill would streamline the department's duplicative community care programs into one cohesive program; create a non-partisan process for reviewing VA's assets to ensure veterans can access the care they have earned and expand the Department of Veterans Affairs' Post-9/11 Caregiver Program to all eras. These reforms are supported by major Veterans Service Organizations. The bill also includes funding for the Choice Program that is expected to last until the new program authorized under the VA MISSION Act is implemented.

On May 7, 2018, Acting VA Secretary Robert Wilkie informed Congress that funding for the Choice Program would be depleted as early as May 31, 2018, which would "have a dramatic, negative impact on our Veteran population."

The Message:

- The VA MISSION Act will ensure veterans have timely access to the care they have earned.
- This bill would streamline VA's community care programs into one cohesive program, create a non-partisan process for reviewing VA's assets and expand VA's Post-9/11 Caregiver Program to all eras.
- This legislation also includes funding for the Choice Program, which is expected to run out of funds as early as May 31, 2018.
- The VA MISSION Act is appropriately named, as it will put the department back on track to fulfilling President Lincoln's promise to care for the men and women who have borne the battle.