



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Chairman Phil Roe, M.D.

HR 3832, as amended: The Veterans Opioid Abuse Prevention Act

Background:

There is currently no system for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical providers to track opioid prescriptions nationwide, resulting in problems such as drug diversion and overuse when patients are prescribed and fill prescriptions in different states. To promote safe prescribing practices, most states belong to a national network state-based Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP) to better monitor dispensed drugs that contain controlled dangerous substances.

The Veterans Opioid Abuse Prevention Act would authorize any VA licensed health care provider or delegate to be considered an authorized recipient and user of the national network of state-based prescription monitoring programs and allow them to monitor drug prescriptions written in those participating states. It would also require VA health care providers practicing in states that do not have a PDMP to join the network of the closest state.

The Message:

- There is currently no system for VA medical providers to track opioid prescriptions nationwide, which can result in drug diversion and overuse.
- When it comes to treating chronic pain with opiates, we must take every step to ensure VA is minimizing veterans' risk of addiction.
- This bill would help prevent opioid abuse among veterans by allowing for the greater sharing of information between VA and state-based prescription drug monitoring programs.
- The Veterans Opioid Abuse Prevention Act would allow VA providers to better track and prevent excess opioid prescribing.