



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

HR 4334: The Improving Oversight of Women Veterans' Care Act of 2017

Background:

The Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 ([P.L. 102-585](#)) authorized the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide gender-specific services for eligible women veterans. That authority has become increasingly important in recent years as the number of women veterans continues to rise. Today, there are more than 2 million women veterans in the United States, representing 9.2 percent of the total veteran population.

VA has responded to the growing number of women veterans by targeting programs and facilities to meet their unique health care needs. While significant gains have also been made to VA medical facilities to ensure privacy and safety for women veterans, as well as timely access to gender-specific care in the community when it is not available at VA medical facilities, veterans advocates continue to call for increased oversight of and attention to health care for female veterans.

The Improving Oversight of Women Veterans' Care Act of 2017 would require VA to submit an annual report to Congress on access to gender-specific services (defined as mammograms, maternity care, and gynecological care) for women veterans under community care networks. It would also require VA medical facilities to submit quarterly reports on the compliance with environment of care standards for women veterans and report to Congress with a plan to strengthen such standards.

The Message:

- As we strive to provide high-quality care to our nation's heroes, we must also care for the specific needs of female veterans.
- While significant gains have also been made to VA medical facilities to ensure privacy and safety for women veterans, veterans advocates continue to call for increased oversight of and attention to health care for female veterans
- The Improving Oversight of Women Veterans' Care Act of 2017 would require VA to submit an annual report to Congress on access to gender-specific services.