



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

H.R. 5538: The Reserve Component Vocational Rehabilitation Parity Act

Background:

Under current law, the Department of Defense can deploy up to 60,000 troops each year under certain reserve orders. Reservists and guardsmen who are deployed under these orders cannot currently count these deployments toward their time of service to qualify for certain benefits.

The Reserve Component Vocational Rehabilitation Parity Act would add eligibility for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) for active service under 12404(a) and 12304(b) orders. This would align eligibility for benefits provided under the Post 9/11 GI Bill that was added by the Forever GI Bill (Public Law 115-48.)

The Message:

- Currently, if a reservist or guardsmen is involuntarily deployed under 12404(a) or 12304(b) orders, their deployment does not count toward their time of service.
- The Reserve Component Vocational Rehabilitation Parity Act would ensure the reservist and guardsmen who put themselves in harm's way to deploy during an emergency or to assist with a pre-planned mission receive credit for their deployment to count toward their benefits.
- Reservists and guardsmen should receive the same time of service credit for benefits as other servicemembers who deploy.