



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

H.R. 1058: The VA Provider Equity Act

Background:

VA's ability to effectively and efficiently recruit and retain podiatrists to treat foot and ankle issues among veteran patients are hampered by outdated statutory requirements governing the treatment of podiatrists within the VA healthcare system. VA's qualifications for podiatrists, which were developed in 1976, have not kept pace with modern podiatric education, training, and practices. Because of this, VA podiatrists experience disparities in recognition and pay when compared to their non-VA peers. These pay disparities have led to serious recruitment and retention issues for podiatrists within the VA healthcare system; long delays - 14 months, on average - for new podiatry positions; and, a lack of experienced podiatrists practicing within VA medical facilities.

The VA Provider Equity Act would make podiatrists equal to their physician peers in terms of pay and eligibility for promotion and leadership positions and bring VA's treatment of podiatrists into the 21st century. This legislation is sponsored by Rep. Brad Wenstrup, who is a doctor of podiatry.

The Message:

- Podiatrists provide veterans with valuable and increasingly necessary medical and surgical foot and ankle care.
- This legislation would put podiatrists on level playing field with their physician peers and improve recruitment and retention of experienced and high-quality podiatrists.
- This commonsense bill would allow VA to attract and retain top-notch podiatric physicians to treat our nation's heroes.