



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

The Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2018

Background:

One of the most important things Congress can do for the men and women who have served this nation is to improve efforts that help returning servicemembers reintegrate back into civilian life. The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) is a joint program administered by the U.S. Departments of Defense (DoD), Labor (DoL) and Veterans Affairs (VA) and is charged with providing veterans a successful transition. While the current version of TAP and other efforts by these agencies and community providers are helping to ensure a successful transition, more must be done to improve this program to achieve and track long-term successful outcomes.

The Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2018 would make improvements to the Transition Assistance Program and the overall transition process for servicemembers to include a focus on career opportunities and entrepreneurship. This bill would represent the largest reorganization of TAP since 2011 and authorize a five-year pilot program that would provide matching grant funds to community providers who offer wraparound transition services to veterans and transitioning servicemembers. Additionally, the bill would require a third-party entity to conduct an independent assessment of the TAP curriculum and require a separate longitudinal study on the efficacy of TAP and long-term outcomes for veterans. This bill as amended would also eliminate the delimiting date for VR&E benefits, provide new GI Bill benefits for student veterans impacted by natural disasters and would place a cap on flight training pursued at public schools equal to the current private school GI Bill cap of \$23,805 a year. This would close a loophole that has enabled flight schools to exploit the GI Bill and would protect the integrity and sustainability of the GI Bill for future generations of veterans.

The Message:

- Many of the problems that veterans can face later in life can be mitigated by a more seamless and successful transition.
- The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) is charged with providing veterans a successful transition from active-duty to civilian life.
- This bill would make improvements to the Transition Assistance Program and the overall transition process for servicemembers to include more of a focus on career opportunities and entrepreneurship.