



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

H.R. 1848: The Veterans Affairs Medical Scribe Pilot Act of 2017

Background:

VA primary care providers are doing their best to see patients in a timely manner, but some veterans around the country are still waiting too long to receive care. In order to provide high-quality care to every veteran who needs it, we must ensure that physicians can use their time efficiently.

Hospitals across the country have begun employing medical scribes to assist doctors with entering patient data into a patient's electronic health record, which some providers have found improves the efficiency and delivery of patient care.

The Veterans Affairs Medical Scribe Pilot Act of 2017 would create a two-year medical scribes pilot program under which VA will increase the use of medical scribes at ten VA medical centers. Under this legislation, VA would be required to report to Congress every 180 days regarding the effects the pilot program has had on provider satisfaction, provider productivity, patient satisfaction, average wait time and the number of patients seen per day.

The Message:

- Primary care providers within the VA are doing their best to see patients in a timely manner, but veterans around the country are still waiting too long to receive care.
- Medical scribes can greatly benefit the efficiency of a medical practice while allowing practitioners to focus on their patients.
- This legislation would enable medical scribes to help VA doctors input patient data into a patient's electronic health record.
- This bill would allow VA physicians to be more focused on patient care and would improve job satisfaction for doctors and patient satisfaction for veterans.