



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Republicans | Ranking Member Phil Roe, M.D.

**H.R. 2326: The Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.)
Transition Improvement Act of 2019**

Background:

The Transition Assistance Program (TAP), which was created in 1991, is a joint program administered by the Departments of Defense (DoD), Labor (DoL), and Veterans Affairs (VA). TAP is intended to assist servicemembers who are leaving the military successfully transition to civilian life by providing them with guidance regarding financial literacy, job placement, and VA benefits. While anecdotal reports from servicemembers indicate that they find TAP beneficial, the program lacks a mechanism to track long-term outcomes. There are also indications that transitioning servicemembers desire greater access to TAP classes and could benefit from increased support and training once they have transitioned to veteran-status.

To address these issues, the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019 would reauthorize a pilot program to provide TAP curriculum to servicemembers at off-base locations. It would also authorize a five-year pilot program to provide matching grant funds to community providers who offer wraparound services to veterans who have recently transitioned out of the military. Additionally, the bill would require an independent assessment of TAP as well as a longitudinal study on long-term outcomes for veterans who attend TAP. The bill is named in honor of William "Bill" Mulder who was a Navy SEAL from Texas.

The Message:

- One of the most important things Congress can do for our nation's servicemembers is to help them successfully reintegrate back into civilian life following their separation from service.
- H.R. 2326 would ensure that more servicemembers can attend TAP and more veterans can receive support and training once they have left the military.
- The bill would also allow Congress to track outcomes for those servicemembers and veterans who attend TAP to ensure that it is providing them with the support they need to achieve success and find fulfillment as civilians.