



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

H.R. 2333: The Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act

Background:

Current data indicates that approximately 20 of our nation's veterans, active-duty servicemembers, and members of the National Guard and Reserve die by suicide every day. This has remained true since the late 1990's despite significant increases to funding, staffing, programs, and attention for suicide prevention and mental health care at and through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA employs Suicide Prevention Coordinators (SPCs) in VA medical facilities to conduct outreach to the local community regarding veteran suicide and coordinate care and services to veterans identified as being at-risk for suicide. The Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act would direct the Government Accountability Office to assess the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of SPCs to ensure that they are being used effectively to support veterans in crisis and assist in preventing suicide among servicemembers and veterans most in need of their support.

The Message:

- The current rate of suicide, both for veterans and civilians, is a national crisis and Congress must take every possible action to mitigate it.
- Eradicating suicide among servicemembers and veterans requires widespread collaboration across government and the private sector to identify those at-risk and provide them with the support they need to live long, healthy lives.
- VA suicide prevention coordinators are on the front-lines of the fight to prevent suicide among our nation's servicemembers and veterans and the Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act would require an assessment of how they are being used across VA's healthcare system.