



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

**H.R. 2372: The Veterans' Care Quality Transparency 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). Suicide is a multi-faceted issue that impacts all Americans, not just those who have served, and eradicating it among veterans will require broad-based efforts from a variety of government and non-governmental entities, not just focused attention from VA. Accordingly, VA has been prioritizing collaborations with community entities as part of the Department's suicide prevention efforts.

The Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act would direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to assess the effectiveness of all memorandum between VA and non-VA entities related to suicide prevention and mental health services. The assessment would include a review of all suicide prevention programs, outreach, and the provision and coordination of mental health services during the five-years preceding the enactment of the bill. This would help ensure that the partnerships that VA is pursuing with outside entities are working as intended to bring us one step closer to ending suicide in military and veteran communities.

**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.
- The Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act would require an assessment of VA's agreements with other government and non-governmental entities to ensure that they are working as intended to prevent suicide among our nation's heroes.