



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

**H.R. 3608: To improve the ability of veterans  
to receive in-state tuition using educational assistance administered by  
VA**

**Background:**

The Veterans' Access, Choice, and Accountability (Choice) Act of 2014 requires that, in order for a public school to receive GI Bill funding, they must provide in-state tuition and fee rates to eligible student veterans regardless of whether or not the student veteran is a permanent resident of that state. To be eligible for in-state tuition under the Choice Act, a veteran must be using their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits at the school and within three years of their last discharge from active-duty. The veteran may also be required to provide notice of their intention to live in the state where they were going to school following the completion of their education. As of June 2019, every state meets the Choice Act's in-state tuition requirement and 27 states and territories have gone above and beyond that to provide in-state tuition to student veterans who begin their education more than three years after their last discharge from active-duty.

With the passage of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also known as the "Forever GI Bill," veterans are no longer restricted on the amount of time they have to use their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits. This makes the requirement for veterans to be within three years of their last discharge from active-duty to receive in-state tuition unnecessary and confusing. Consequently, this bill would remove that requirement. It would also require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to publish in-state tuition residency requirements on VA's website and give states and territories until August 1, 2020, to comply with the requirements of the bill.

**The Message:**

- Since student veterans can now use their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits at any time thanks to the Forever GI Bill, student veterans should also be able to benefit from in-state tuition anytime, without regard to how long ago they separated from service.
- With 27 states and territories already stepping up to the plate to provide in-state tuition to student veterans more than three years past their last discharge from active-duty, it is time for the remaining states and territories to do the same.