



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

Chairman Phil Roe, M.D.

The Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2018

Background:

One of the most important things Congress can do for the men and women who have served this nation is to improve efforts that help returning servicemembers reintegrate back into civilian life. The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) is a joint program administered by the U.S. Departments of Defense (DoD), Labor (DoL) and Veterans Affairs (VA) and is charged with providing veterans a successful transition. While the current version of TAP and other efforts by these agencies and community providers are helping to ensure a successful transition, more must be done to improve this program to achieve and track long-term successful outcomes.

The Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2018 would make improvements to the Transition Assistance Program and the overall transition process for servicemembers to include more of a focus on career opportunities and entrepreneurship. This bill would represent the largest reorganization of TAP since 2011. Specifically, the bill would restructure TAP to require servicemembers to choose specific career-oriented tracks that best suit their post-service plans and would require that servicemembers take part in one-on-one counseling a year prior to separation to evaluate which transition pathway suits them best. It would also authorize a five-year pilot program that would provide matching grant funds to community providers that offer wraparound transition services to veterans and transitioning servicemembers. Finally, the bill would require a third-party entity to conduct an independent assessment of the TAP curriculum and require a separate longitudinal study on the efficacy of TAP and long-term outcomes for veterans.

The Message:

- The importance of a seamless and successful transition cannot be understated for servicemembers and their families.
- Many of the problems that veterans can face later in life can be mitigated by a more seamless and successful transition.
- The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) is charged with providing veterans a successful transition from active-duty to civilian life.
- This bill would make improvements to the Transition Assistance Program and the overall transition process for servicemembers to include more of a focus on career opportunities and entrepreneurship.