



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

**H.R. 7795: The Veterans Benefits Fairness and Transparency Act of 2020**

**Background:**

Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs) are standardized forms used by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) when performing disability examinations in support of a veteran's claim for disability compensation as a result of a service-connected injury or illness. In 2011, VA made DBQs available on VA's website so that veterans could have them completed by the veteran's non-VA healthcare provider. However, VA removed the DBQs from the Department's website on April 6, 2020, claiming, among other reasons, that they are frequently updated.

The Veterans Benefits Fairness and Transparency Act of 2020 would require VA to resume publishing DBQ forms on VA's public-facing website. If changes are made to the DBQs, the bill would require VA to accept DBQs completed by a non-VA medical provider for up to one year after the provider fills out the form, as long as the DBQ was current at the time it was completed. If a new version of the DBQ is released before the veteran submits their previously completed DBQ in support of the claim (thereby making it an "outdated form"), this bill would allow VA to request additional information from the veteran if that information is required by the new version of the DBQ. The bill would also require the Inspector General to report on DBQs completed by non-VA providers annually for five years.

**The Message:**

- No veteran should be met with bureaucratic red tape once they leave military service and seek the benefits they have earned from VA.
- Ensuring disability benefit questionnaires are publicly available on VA's website is critical to better serving veterans, particularly those in rural and remote areas and especially during a public health crisis when access to care and services is limited.
- The Veterans Benefits Fairness and Transparency Act of 2020 is a bipartisan bill that would make it easier for veterans to submit claims for disability compensation after suffering from injuries or illnesses while serving in defense of the United States.