



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

**H.R. 840: Veterans' Access to Child Care Act**

**Background:**

The lack of child care services at many VA medical facilities is frequently cited as a barrier to care for veterans, particularly female servicemembers. In light of this, the [Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010](#) required VA to carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing child care services for veterans receiving mental health services and other intensive health care services.

In a report during the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, VA reported that it had provided free childcare to 10,000 children through the pilot program and that veterans were consistently “completely satisfied” with services received. During the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, legislators extended the pilot program through September 30, 2020, through [the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2018](#).

The Veterans' Access to Child Care Act would make VA's pilot program for child care a permanent program at VA for veterans who serve as the primary caretaker of a child and are receiving regular mental health services and other intensive health care services.

**The Message:**

- The requirement for childcare should not be a barrier to veteran patients seeking care from VA.
- This bill would provide access to child care to veterans receiving mental health services and other intensive health care services at VA facilities.