

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

REPUBLICANS | RANKING MEMBER MIKE BOST

The VA Assessment by Independent Measures (AIM) Act

Background:

In 2014, Congress passed the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act – commonly called the Choice Act – in response to a nationwide access crisis that left veterans across the country languishing on wait lists in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities. Among other things, the Choice Act required an Independent Assessment to evaluate the VA health care system's needs, capabilities, resources, workforce, and culture. The Independent Assessment was conducted by private sector entities with relevant expertise and found numerous systemic shortfalls when it was released in 2015. It highlighted the need for reform and was critical to subsequent, successful government-wide efforts to improve the delivery of care to veterans. For example, the data and recommendations made in the Independent Assessment were influential in the enactment of the MISSION Act, which improved access to care for veterans and caregivers.

The VA Assessment by Independent Measures (AIM) Act would require VA to repeat the Independent Assessment every decade, beginning in 2025. It would adopt the Independent Assessment framework in the Choice Act and expand it to include VA's training, research, and emergency response missions. This would provide an ongoing mechanism to ensure that the VA health care system provides timely, accessible, and high-quality care to future generations of veterans and keeps pace with continued changes in the veteran community and the health care industry.

The Message:

- Veterans deserve first-class care in a changing world.
- The VA AIM Act would provide a regular, objective, comprehensive evaluation of how well VA is caring for our nation's veterans.
- The VA AIM Act would ensure stakeholders stay on top of the challenges and opportunities facing the VA healthcare system and the veterans it serves.