

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

REPUBLICANS | RANKING MEMBER MIKE BOST

The VA Supply Chain Resiliency Act

Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how important resilient supply chains are. The Department of Defense (DoD) uses the Warstopper program to ensure the availability of critical items during emergencies. Through Warstopper, DoD contracts with manufacturers and suppliers to hold and manage extra inventories of supplies that DoD can draw on as needed. Warstopper has helped DoD respond effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is not part of the Warstopper program and went into the pandemic with few supply reserves. VA is attempting to reestablish supply depots called Regional Readiness Centers, but this effort will not be complete for at least two more years.

The VA Supply Chain Resiliency Act would require VA to participate in the Warstopper program. As part of that participation, VA would be required to assess what supplies it needs to respond to COVID-19 and future epidemic, pandemic, emergency, or disaster scenarios. DoD and VA would then determine which supplies are appropriate to include in Warstopper. This would guarantee the availability of those needed supplies to care for veterans during emergencies.

The Message:

- As the largest integrated healthcare system in America, VA must have a resilient supply chain to support veterans and the federal emergency response.
- This commonsense legislation would ensure VA is better prepared to respond to COVID-19 and future emergencies.
- The VA Supply Chain Resiliency Act would include VA in the Warstopper program, a proven best practice which has helped DoD respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.