



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
**VETERANS' AFFAIRS**  
*Chairman Phil Roe, M.D.*

**The Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2017**

**Background:**

Without action from Congress, the authority for the VA Secretary to carry out many activities at the Department of Veterans Affairs will expire either at the end of this fiscal year, September 30, 2017, or the end of the calendar year, December 30, 2017.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2017 would extend a number of expiring authorities impacting veterans' benefits, health care, and homeless programs, including nursing home care, support services for caregivers, transportation, child care assistance, adaptive sports programs and housing and home loan services.

This bill would extend the assisted living pilot program for veterans with traumatic brain injury for five additional months to allow extra time for VA to fully transition the veterans currently participating in that pilot into other existing programs more suitable for their ongoing support and rehabilitation. It would also make a number of technical corrections to the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 that have been requested by the administration.

The costs associated with the continuation of these programs have been assumed in the House-passed appropriations bill for fiscal year 2018 and the 2019 advance appropriation.

**The Message:**

- The Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act would continue many programs that veterans and their caregivers, dependents and survivors rely on.
- This bill has broad, bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate.
- This legislation would create technical changes that would aid in the VA's implementation of the Forever GI Bill.