



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

H.R. 5938: the Veterans Serving Veterans Act of 2018

Background:

Employment shortly after separation from the military is beneficial for veterans from both a financial and psychological perspective. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is facing significant staffing shortages in many occupations, and this problem is exacerbated by the arduous hiring process utilized by VA, resulting in a time lag between the need for and filling of a position. Many positions at VA share the same skill sets within Department of Defense (DoD) military occupational specialties (MOS). Linking open positions via a coordinated database would help not only fill vacancies but also target the very population who would like to continue serving fellow veterans.

Each year, thousands of former military health care providers from all branches of the Armed Services separate from DoD and, despite their training and experience, do not possess a civilian certificate allowing them to continue in the occupations for which they were trained. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has a significant shortage of clinical positions that could potentially be filled by these former servicemembers. As such, VHA has instituted a pilot program to recruit, train and certify these "Intermediate Care Technicians" (ICT) to serve at VA facilities in a variety of roles, including the emergency department, home based primary care and in specialty clinics.

H.R. 5938 would: (1) require VA to identify the MOSs that correlate with open positions within VA, to coordinate with DoD to identify soon-to-be-separated servicemembers and to add those servicemembers' MOSs and contact information to VA's recruiting database with an opt-out option; (2) require VA to implement a program to recruit, train and certify former military medics as ICTs to work at VA medical facilities.

The Message:

- Employment shortly after separation from the military is beneficial for veterans from both a financial and psychological perspective.
- Currently, VA is facing significant staffing shortages in many occupations that could be filled by recently separated servicemembers.
- This legislation will require VA to identify and recruit soon-to-be-separated servicemembers based on their military occupational specialties.
- This legislation would also require the implementation of a successful pilot program that recruits, trains, and certifies former military medics as intermediate care technicians.