



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Chairman Phil Roe, M.D.

H.R. 3634: The Securing Electronic Records for Veterans Ease (SERVE) Act of 2017

Background:

Unlike the vast majority of students attending two- or four-year colleges in the U.S., those veterans who have taken advantage of the GI Bill are usually in their late 20's or early 30's and typically opt to rent housing near a college campus, rather than live in a college dorm. Although these student veterans receive basic allowance for housing (BAH) from VA, many landlords and rental agencies do not recognize BAH as proof of income, which poses additional difficulty for student veterans who choose to rent.

The SERVE Act of 2017 would make BAH documentation available online to all veterans, which would help confirm a veteran's monthly housing stipend and simplify their home or apartment rental process.

The Message:

- This simple, zero cost legislative correction will quickly fix a problem that has created an outsized hardship for veterans seeking education after their service.
- It is essential that we provide veterans and their families burden-free housing as they seek higher education through the GI bill.
- Allowing veterans easier access to non-college dorms ensures a comfortable home in which families can live while the service member earns his or her education.