



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

The Veterans Affairs Medical-Surgical Purchasing Stabilization Act

Background:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched a new method of purchasing medical and surgical supplies in late 2016. The Medical Surgical Prime Vendor-Next Generation (MSPV) program attempted to establish a department-wide formulary of medical-surgical supplies that facilities are required to purchase. VA modeled the MSPV formulary on the department's system for purchasing prescription drugs, which saves money by reducing the number of suppliers VA uses. Unfortunately, VA required its medical centers to use MSPV [before the formulary was adequately developed](#), causing many medical centers to shun MSPV and continue to purchase their medical and surgical supplies through ineffective methods like purchase cards, which the [VA Office of Inspector General has found](#) to be wasteful. According to the [Government Accountability Office](#), the medical-surgical formulary created by MSPV lacked many necessary items, included too many of the wrong items and failed to distinguish simple commodities from complex medical devices. VA is now struggling to fix the medical-surgical formulary and administer the MSPV program at the same time.

The Veterans Affairs Medical-Surgical Purchasing Stabilization Act directs VA to correct the problems with their medical-surgical formulary using input from medical professionals with relevant expertise rather than administrative staff. This legislation would also prevent VA from outsourcing the creation of the formulary.

The Message:

- The Veterans Affairs Medical-Surgical Purchasing Stabilizing Act will stabilize VA's new, yet already flawed, method of purchasing medical and surgical supplies.
- Doctors and nurses are directly accountable for the quality of health care they provide to veterans and have the best knowledge of the instruments and supplies they use.
- This legislation would direct VA to fix its medical-surgical formulary and ensures that qualified medical professionals make formulary decisions