



June 19, 2019

Ranking Member Phil Roe  
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
3460 O'Neill House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Ranking Member Phil Roe,

On behalf of Concerned Veterans for America, which represents activists around the country, we offer our strong support for H.R. 3083, the AIR Acceleration Act of 2019. This legislation will give the Department of Veterans Affairs the necessary tools to successfully deliver health care to veterans as it evaluates the VA's assets and infrastructure as part of the VA MISSION Act.

The VA MISSION Act, which was signed into law on June 6, 2018, included language instructing the Department of Veterans Affairs to take a comprehensive look at its physical presence through an asset and infrastructure review process.

A year later, the VA is now compiling the necessary information, including conducting market assessments, that will be used by the new Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission. Secretary Wilkie estimates these assessments will be completed by next summer, however, Section 202 of the VA MISSION Act limits when the new commission can meet to only 2022 and 2023. The AIR Acceleration Act will give the commission additional flexibility to begin meeting earlier if the VA has completed the market assessments and the criteria has been established for the commission to consider when making recommendations.

The VA has already started the process to dispose of or repurpose the over 430 vacant buildings the GAO has identified. However, broader infrastructure realignment is still necessary to meet the changing health care needs of veterans today and tomorrow. The health care delivery landscape has changed significantly from when much of the VA's current infrastructure was built. Now more care is delivered in the outpatient setting and the veteran population continues to shift geographically. To provide the best quality of care, the VA's infrastructure should reflect the changing needs of our veterans.

CVA urges Congress to pass this legislation and help the VA adapt and improve the care and attention it gives to our nation's veterans.

Sincerely,

Nate Anderson  
Executive Director  
Concerned Veterans for America