

**Statement of Ranking Member Doug Collins
Markup of H.R. 886
Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act
House Judiciary Committee
Wednesday, October 16, 2019**

Most of those who serve this great nation in the armed forces go on to live successful lives, and we thank them every day for their service. However, too many are left with post-traumatic stress disorder or a traumatic brain injury. It is estimated that one in five veterans has symptoms of a mental health disorder or cognitive impairment, and one in six veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom suffer from a substance use issue. We cannot turn our backs on those who served. That is why I support H.R. 866, the Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Unfortunately, veterans who suffer from mental health issues, substance abuse, and homelessness often end up in the criminal justice system. The unique challenges that lead our veterans to the criminal justice system demand unique solutions. Veteran treatment courts—not a new idea, but an effective one—provide the counseling, care, and support veterans need.

H.R. 886 establishes a program within the Department of Justice, in coordination with the Department of Veterans Affairs, to provide grants, training, and technical assistance to help state, local, and tribal governments develop and maintain veteran treatment courts.

Let's support those who answered the call to ensure our safety and freedom. Let's, as President Lincoln

stated, care for those who have borne the battle. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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