

FRENCH HILL
2ND DISTRICT, ARKANSAS



COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS,
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON MONETARY
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AND ILLICIT FINANCE

Congress of the United States
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May 16, 2018

The Honorable Phil Roe
Chairman
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Walz
Ranking Member
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Roe and Ranking Member Walz:

It is an honor to serve with you in Congress, and I appreciated the opportunity to testify before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs today. As I testified on behalf of Arkansas's veterans, I have concerns with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) 40-mile rule within the Veterans Choice Program (VCP).

As you know, the VCP provides veterans with the ability to receive medical care in the community, outside the VA, when required or necessary. One requirement for eligibility under VCP is for a veteran to live more than 40 miles (driving distance) from the nearest VA medical facility with a full-time primary care physician. This does not account for facilities within the 40-mile radius that may not provide the proper services for any given veteran.

Arkansas's Second Congressional District is home to over 50,000 veterans and many of our brave service members at Little Rock Air Force Base and Camp Robinson, and I have heard persistent concerns from a number of veterans about the difficulties dealing with the 40-mile rule within the VCP. The Choice Program was designed to make it easier for our veterans to receive the care they deserve, and I don't believe a veteran's geographic location should affect the care they receive.

Due to these concerns, I respectfully request that you include proposals to address the 40-mile rule in your work on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Thank you for your consideration and your work on behalf of our veterans, and please do not hesitate to reach out to my office and me if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

French Hill
Member of Congress