



Rep. Tom Emmer on about three veterans bills he recently supported

Broadcast: February 16, 2017 • Duration: 2:23

****HOST:**

** [Introduction not provided in transcript]

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Hello everyone, Congressman Tom Emmer here. Today I want to fill you in on three bills the House passed earlier this week that will help assist and care for our nation's veterans. The first, called the Wingman Act, gives congressional staff the ability to have read-only access to veterans' records and the Veterans Benefit Administration with the vets' permission. Congressional offices like mine have caseworkers whose job is to help constituents navigate federal agencies like the VA. I'm proud to say that I have excellent caseworkers in our office. And with the passing of the Wingman Act, they will be better able to assist Minnesota's veterans and help with the VA's current backlog. Too often, our nation's heroes are forced to wait long periods of time before they receive the help they so desperately need because of unnecessary red tape. The Wingman Act removes the red tape, ensuring that our veterans receive assistance more quickly. We also passed the Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act, better known as the BRAVE Act. This legislation allows the Secretary of the VA to favor government contractors who employ our nation's veterans full-time when awarding federal contracts. Additionally, we passed the honoring investments in recruiting and employing American military veterans, otherwise known as the HIRE Act. This bill requires the Department of Labor to create a program to obtain information from employers so that businesses who employ veterans will be recognized and rewarded. It's unfortunate that so many soldiers return to civilian life and have a difficult time finding full-time employment. And I'm excited to see both the HIRE Act and the BRAVE Act passed to address this problem. Our nation's heroes have sacrificed so much to protect our great nation and their fellow Americans. That's why it's imperative that we take care of them once they return home. And I think the passage of these vital bills is a step in the right direction. I look forward to our continuing efforts in the 115th Congress and working with our new VA Secretary, Dr. David Shulkin, to further improve the lives of our veterans. If you have any suggestions on how we can better assist our nation's veterans, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Thank you for listening, and have a wonderful weekend.

This transcript was independently produced by MN-06 Watch for accountability and archival purposes.

Source: (February 16, 2017)

Archived: February 06, 2026

Source URL: <https://youtu.be/Fd9puU109yk>

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