

House Natural Resources Committee Oversight Hearing on COFA Amendments Act

Questions for the VA

- It is disheartening to hear that despite multiple requests by FAS to meet to begin the process of expanding service for veterans in the Freely Associated States, the VA has declined to engage meaningfully with these governments. The clear intent of Congress was for robust negotiations during this first year so that veterans of U.S. military service get the care they have earned. We believe there is value in these dialogues with the FAS government to help facilitate planning and assessing options. Why has the VA declined to engage as expected by Congress?
- After decades of waiting to improve access to care, it is critical that veterans of U.S. military service begin to receive these benefits. What is the current status of the progress to date on the VA's implementation plans? When should veterans in the FAS expect to be able to begin accessing medical services in country under the changes to the law?

Questions for State and Interior

- Can you discuss how the interagency working group is operating since it was established? How many times has the working group met and what has it achieved?

Questions for FAS

- What additional steps can Congress take to support the relationship between the FAS and U.S. outside of the Compact Agreements?