

The Veterans' Education, Transition, and Opportunity Prioritization Plan (VET OPP) Act of 2019

Senators Marco Rubio and Maggie Hassan

Background: Currently, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is divided into three Administrations: the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), and the National Cemetery Administration. VBA is responsible for all benefits, including disability compensation, pension claims, and economic opportunity. Unfortunately, VBA's efforts to administer important educational and employment benefits, like the GI Bill or the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program, are often overshadowed by VBA's other missions.

The VET OPP Act: Senators Rubio and Hassan have reintroduced the Veterans' Education, Transition, and Opportunity Prioritization Plan (VET OPP) Act. This bipartisan legislation will allow the VA to reemphasize and prioritize existing programs that empower veterans in their civilian lives and enhance their economic opportunity. Specifically, the VET OPP Act would:

- Create the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration within the VA, which would be led by the new Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity and Transition;
- Reorganize all existing VA transition, education, employment, and home loan programs under the new Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.
- Require the creation of the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration using existing resources to avoid growing government.

Organizations in Support: Student Veterans of America, Disabled Veterans of America, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans Education Success, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and Vietnam Veterans of America.