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CHIROPRACTIC CARE AVAILABLE TO ALL VETERANS ACT

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1017) to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 and title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to expand access to such care and services, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1017

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act".

SEC. 2. PROGRAM FOR PROVISION OF CHIROPRACTIC CARE AND SERVICES TO VETERANS.

Section 204(c) of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 (38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(1)" before "The program";

and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) The program shall be carried out at not fewer than 75 medical centers by not later than December 31, 2011, and at all medical centers by not later than December 31, 2013."

SEC. 3. EXPANDED CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES AVAILABLE TO VETERANS.

(a) MEDICAL SERVICES.—Paragraph (6) of section 1701 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(H) Chiropractic services."

(b) REHABILITATIVE SERVICES.—Paragraph (8) of such section is amended by inserting "chiropractic," after "counseling."

(c) PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES.—Paragraph (9) of such section is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (F) through (K) as subparagraphs (G) through (L), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following new subparagraph (F):

"(F) periodic and preventative chiropractic examinations and services;"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act, H.R. 1017, as amended, which emphasizes the critical need for robust chiropractic services within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In the theater today, Madam Speaker, servicemembers may carry up to 55

pounds of combat equipment and armor. Consistently supporting such a heavy load places a serious strain on the backs and joints of our servicemembers, thereby causing musculoskeletal injuries. In fact, the VA reports that musculoskeletal disorders are the single most common ailment facing returning veterans. Among veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom who have received treatment from the VA, over 52 percent have been diagnosed with such a disorder; however, the VA is not presently equipped to serve this clear need.

Current law specifies that the VA must have at least one chiropractic care program in each of the 21 Veterans Integrated Service Networks, or VISNs. Today, in-house chiropractic care is available at just 32 major VA facilities. This leaves veterans living near the remaining 121 centers without access to chiropractic care at a VA facility.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1017 would make chiropractic care available to all veterans at all VA medical centers by phasing in the establishment of such chiropractic care programs. The VA would be required to offer chiropractic care at 75 medical centers by the end of 2011 and at all VA medical centers by the end of 2013. This bill provides an opportunity to significantly expand access to chiropractic care for one of the most prevalent disorders facing veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

I urge the support of my colleagues and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 1017, as amended, the Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act, to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 and title 38 United States Code to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to expand such care and services.

Musculoskeletal injuries cause problems not only for veterans of past conflicts, but are also one of the leading health concerns for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. This committee has a long history of taking action to ensure that the VA provides quality and accessible chiropractic care, and I would like to thank the chairman for introducing legislation once again.

I also want to thank my good friend and colleague from Kansas, JERRY MORAN, for his strong advocacy of the need to provide quality chiropractic care within the VA. It was legislation that JERRY MORAN introduced in the 108th Congress that initially provided the VA with the authority to hire and employ chiropractors.

The VA provides chiropractic care at 32 VA medical centers using hired or contracted staff. Chiropractic services are also available to veterans who live in areas distant from facilities through

its fee basis program, which uses local non-VA providers.

Given the prevalence of back, neck, and joint pain in the veteran population, there is a need to expand access to chiropractic care within the VA medical facilities. This bill would do that by mandating such care at 75 VA medical centers by the end of next year and at each VA medical center by the end of 2013. However, I want to point out that it is also important that the VA continues to ensure chiropractic care remains available as an option through the VA's fee basis program.

Oftentimes, the fee basis program is needed or would benefit the health status of an eligible veteran. For instance, multiple treatments with some frequency may be required to receive the full benefits of chiropractic care. If a veteran lives some distance from a VA medical center requiring that veteran to make multiple trips, it creates an undue travel burden. In such cases, the use of the VA's fee basis program is in the best interest of the veteran. Therefore, it must always remain a mechanism for accessing care to ensure system-wide availability regardless of whether a VA medical center has a chiropractor on staff.

As always, I believe it is our duty to do all we can to help our veteran warriors heal from the injuries incurred through service to our Nation. Providing them with readily-accessible, widely-available, and highly skilled chiropractic care I believe will go a long way towards increasing the health and well-being of our veteran population. As such, I encourage all my colleagues to join with me in supporting H.R. 1017, as amended.

I would also like to extend special recognition to Chairman MICHAUD and Ranking Member BROWN of the Health Subcommittee for their work on this bill and that of the staff.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I just want to point out that we are approaching the Memorial Day recess. Probably all of us will be at veterans memorials and parades, saluting them on Memorial Day, and we will all say, of course, that we support our veterans.

What we are doing today, as we have done throughout the year, is to say we have a series of bills that will in fact add to the benefits and the well-being of our veterans, and that is the best way to celebrate Memorial Day.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1017, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SALUTING SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN TOUCH ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 278) expressing the sense of Congress that a grateful Nation supports and salutes Sons and Daughters in Touch on its 20th Anniversary that is being held on Father's Day, 2010, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, the District of Columbia.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 278

Whereas there is virtue in remembering and honoring the service and sacrifice of those who died or remain missing as a result of the war in Southeast Asia and the families and children they left behind;

Whereas an estimated 20,000 American children lost fathers in the war in Southeast Asia;

Whereas Father's Day is a fitting day to recognize the sacrifice and service of these fallen heroes and their families;

Whereas the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in the Nation's capital symbolically and literally represents the men and women who gave their lives in the war in Southeast Asia;

Whereas Sons and Daughters in Touch (SDIT) is the only national organization formed specifically to bring together and support the children and families of these American heroes;

Whereas SDIT locates, unites, and supports sons, daughters, and other family members of those who died or remain missing as a result of the Vietnam War and promotes healing through various outreach and education efforts;

Whereas SDIT has held regular Father's Day gatherings for the past 20 years to bring together such sons, daughters, wives, and other family members in a spirit of honor, remembrance, and learning;

Whereas America's current military campaigns have produced a new generation of Gold Star sons and daughters who have lost parents in war;

Whereas Sons and Daughters in Touch is in a unique position to serve as an example to current and future generations of Gold Star families as they bear the painful burden resulting from the selfless sacrifices made by their fathers and mothers in wartime service to the Nation, and SDIT can also serve as a resilient example to all nations affected by war;

Whereas Sons and Daughters in Touch will celebrate its 20th anniversary, which is being held on Father's Day, 2010, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, the District of Columbia; and

Whereas there is triumph, comfort, and honor in healing: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that a grateful Nation supports and salutes Sons and Daughters in Touch on its

20th Anniversary that is being held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, the District of Columbia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Concurrent Resolution 278.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H. Con. Res. 278 is a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a grateful Nation supports and salutes the Sons and Daughters in Touch on its 20th anniversary being held on Father's Day at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 278, a concurrent resolution expressing the Sense of Congress that a grateful Nation supports and salutes the Sons and Daughters in Touch on its 20th Anniversary being held on Father's Day at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. This is very important legislation that I would like to bring to your attention today.

I want to recognize and applaud the outstanding efforts of the sponsor of this legislation, my colleague Representative DEBORAH HALVORSON a stellar member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Sons and Daughters in Touch is a national organization consisting of 3,000 Americans whose fathers were killed or went missing during the Vietnam War. Throughout the Vietnam War 58,236 Americans were killed, 153,452 were wounded and 2,489 of these brave servicemen still remain missing. These numbers are mind-boggling and we owe it to these families to continue to support and recognize those that served and gave their lives to protect this Nation.

It has been estimated that among the 58,236 Americans lost in Southeast Asia, that more than one-third were fathers. It has been noted that more than 20,000 American children were left fatherless during this time.

This Father's Day weekend, Sons and Daughters in Touch will celebrate its 20th anniversary. Hundreds of sons and daughters who lost their fathers in the Vietnam War will join together on the Nation's Capitol to hold a series of remembrance ceremonies to continue the healing process for these families.

The sponsor of this resolution is one of our new Members, Mrs. HALVORSON of Illinois, who has taken such a very dynamic part in our deliberations on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman for an explanation of the bill.

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res.

278, a resolution honoring the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Sons and Daughters in Touch.

For the last two decades, this organization has provided support to those sons and daughters who lost a parent fighting during the Vietnam War. During the war in Southeast Asia, we lost over 58,000 men and women in uniform; of those, it is estimated that more than one-third were fathers. That means that more than 20,000 children were lost without a father to help raise them. This means that thousands of children missed out on the memories of growing up with a parent or, in some cases, even the opportunity to meet them.

Founded by a son who helped bury his father after being shot down over Vietnam, Sons and Daughters in Touch was founded by Tony Cordero, who simply wanted to find others like him who had lost a parent in battle. Working with members of other organizations that connected and supported those left behind at home, Tony worked to create an organization that continues to benefit 3,000 people every day.

Next Monday, those of us here will return home to honor the lives of those who sacrificed everything to keep our country safe. Today, we can honor those who were left waiting. Today, we can honor those who fought the battle of moving on without that loved one by their side. I ask my colleagues to stand here with me as we stand up for our military families. I ask my colleagues to stand with me and with those who have joined us today as we honor the loss and sacrifice they have endured. I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting H. Con. Res 278, honoring the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Sons and Daughters in Touch.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize Chairman FILNER for his dedication and hard work on behalf of our veterans, as well as for his help in bringing this resolution to the floor in such a timely manner.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res 278, and I want to thank DEBORAH HALVORSON, a member of the committee, for introducing the legislation. It expresses a sense of the Congress that a grateful Nation supports and salutes the Sons and Daughters in Touch on its 20th anniversary that is being held on Father's Day, 2010 at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial here in Washington, D.C., the District of Columbia.

During the conflict in Vietnam, more than 20,000 children lost a parent. These children suffered a profound loss and deserve the gratitude and appreciation of the Nation for the sacrifice made by their families. Founded in 1990 to join together the children of those who lost their fathers during this conflict, the Sons and Daughters in Touch work to locate, unite, and provide support to other sons and daughters and other family members with regard to