

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 3789, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. POMEROY. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3789.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING EFFORTS OF WELCOME BACK VETERANS

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1746) recognizing and supporting the efforts of Welcome Back Veterans to augment the services provided by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs in providing timely and world-class care for veterans and members of the Armed Forces suffering from PTSD and related psychiatric disorders, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1746

Whereas the Boston Red Sox Foundation has been augmenting the Departments of Defense and Veterans' Affairs in providing care for veterans and members of the Armed Forces suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and related psychiatric disorders;

Whereas members of all components of the United States Armed Forces have been serving honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001;

Whereas deployed soldiers frequently and continually engage in high-intensity combat operations, exposing them to potential triggers for PTSD or other psychiatric conditions;

Whereas the prevalence of clinically diagnosed cases of PTSD in veterans who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan ranges from 1.5 to 9 percent, depending on exposure risk factors, and the prevalence of PTSD symptoms in such veterans, based on self-reported surveys, ranges from 4.2 to 26 percent depending on exposure risk factors;

Whereas those with PTSD are at higher risk for developing other psychological disorders, such as depression, more likely to engage in self-destructive behaviors, such as alcohol and substance abuse;

Whereas PTSD has been associated with unemployment and a work productivity loss;

Whereas PTSD, left untreated, may exact an additional toll on individuals, families, and society;

Whereas veterans and active members of the United States Armed Forces are a distin-

guished and honored part of our society and deserve special recognition and treatment for their sacrifices on our behalf;

Whereas the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives encourages and actively seeks innovative treatments for PTSD and traumatic brain injury (TBI);

Whereas Major League Baseball, in partnership with the McCormick Foundation, the Entertainment Industry Foundation, and University Hospitals at Weill Cornell, the University of Michigan and Stanford University have founded Welcome Back Veterans, a not-for-profit organization committed to creating a national network of centers to provide the best care to veterans, and funding groundbreaking research to limit the scope of PTSD;

Whereas the Boston Red Sox Foundation independently founded a program to provide PTSD treatment for veterans in conjunction with Massachusetts General Hospital;

Whereas Welcome Back Veterans through Major League Baseball Charities and the Boston Red Sox Foundation have funded efforts at four hospitals and universities—Massachusetts General in Boston, Weill Cornell in New York, the University of Michigan, and Stanford University in California;

Whereas Major League Baseball and the Boston Red Sox Foundation have already raised \$15,000,000 in private funding to support treatment, research, and innovation in PTSD care through grants to other service organizations;

Whereas the University of Michigan has already begun treatment of hundreds of members of the Armed Forces and veterans in a new buddy-to-buddy program;

Whereas Massachusetts General is providing evaluations and treatment to local veterans with PTSD and TBI, family counseling, and outreach for family members of veterans affected by these two conditions;

Whereas Massachusetts General, Weill Cornell, and Stanford University are doing ongoing research to improve treatments and community education of health workers, clergy, social workers, human resource providers, and others;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs provides some counseling services to family members of those suffering from PTSD;

Whereas the University of Michigan and Massachusetts General are providing counseling and related services to family members of those suffering from PTSD;

Whereas 5,000 veterans and members of the Armed Forces are already receiving help through the Welcome Back Veterans program; and

Whereas Welcome Back Veterans is committed to a public-private partnership with appropriate government agencies to continue to expand their work and outreach: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes and supports the efforts of Welcome Back Veterans to augment the services provided by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs in providing timely and world-class care for veterans and members of the Armed Forces suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and related psychiatric disorders; and

(2) encourages the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish innovative public-private partnerships for the treatment and research of post-traumatic stress disorder in teaching hospitals across the country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the gen-

tleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. 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 Resolution 1746, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, before I talk about the importance of the resolution before us today, I want to thank the Committee on Armed Services for working with us to bring this resolution to the floor and would ask that the exchange of letters waiving jurisdiction between the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services be inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, is one of the signature wounds of Operation New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom. Countless reports and studies bear out this statement. Most significantly, a 2008 study released by the RAND Corporation reported that one in five veterans of the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan are suffering from PTSD. Studies by other experts and by the VA itself demonstrate how widespread and serious PTSD is; and as more servicemembers return home, the problem will only grow larger.

VA has made important strides in the treatment of PTSD. They boast providers throughout the Nation who offer excellent care for PTSD and researchers who have found innovative, ground-breaking new treatments as well. But VA cannot combat PTSD alone. Dedicated advocates and organizations throughout the country are committed to doing their part to help provide care for our veterans.

Welcome Back Veterans has answered this call to service. The partnership between Major League Baseball, the McCormick Foundation, the Entertainment Industry Foundation and the university hospitals at Weill Cornell, the University of Michigan, Stanford University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have already made tremendous accomplishments on behalf of our veterans.

They have raised over \$15 million for PTSD treatment and research and are working closely with hospitals in Massachusetts, New York, Michigan, and California to help provide care to over 5,000 servicemembers. But for all the great things that Welcome Back Veterans has accomplished, I know they are poised to do so much more. They are continuing to work hard to care for our veterans, and I look forward to watching them continue with these efforts.

Welcome Back Veterans deserves our formal recognition for the great work they have done. I urge you to join me in offering my gratitude to Welcome Back Veterans by supporting House Resolution 1746.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, December 7, 2010.

Hon. BOB FILNER,

Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN FILNER: I am writing to you concerning H. Res. 1746, recognizing and supporting the efforts of Welcome Back Veterans to augment the services provided by the Departments of Defense and Veterans' Affairs in providing timely and world-class care for veterans and members of the Armed Forces suffering from PTSD and related psychiatric disorders. This measure was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Our committee recognizes the importance of H. Res. 1746, and the need for the resolution to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over this legislation, the Committee on Armed Services will waive further consideration of H. Res. 1746. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the resolution, the Committee on Armed Services does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the resolution which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction.

Please place this letter and a copy of your response into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, December 7, 2010.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,

Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SKELTON: Thank you for your letter regarding House Resolution 1746, "Recognizing and supporting the efforts of Welcome Back Veterans to augment the services provided by the Departments of Defense and Veterans' Affairs in providing timely and world-class care for veterans and members of the Armed Forces suffering from PTSD and related psychiatric disorders." This measure was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and sequentially referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

I agree that the Committee on Armed Services has certain valid jurisdictional claims to this resolution, and I appreciate your decision to waive further consideration of H. Res. 1746 in the interest of expediting consideration of this important measure. I agree that by agreeing to waive further consideration, the Committee on Armed Services is not waiving its jurisdictional claims over similar measures in the future.

During consideration of this measure on the House floor, I will ask that this exchange of letters be included in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER,
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1746, as amended, a bill to recognize and support the efforts of the Welcome Back Veterans organization to augment the services provided by the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs in providing timely and world-class care for veterans and members of the Armed Forces suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and related psychiatric disorders.

Many of our veterans return from combat in need of assistance due to the symptoms related to PTSD. Welcome Back Veterans is engaged in a public-private partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, Major League Baseball, the McCormick Foundation and university hospitals of Weill Cornell, the University of Michigan, and Stanford University to help veterans by addressing the ongoing issue of PTSD.

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Nearly 5,000 veterans and members of the Armed Forces are already receiving help through the Welcome Back Veterans program. To date, the program has raised over \$10 million in funding to help improve the lives of our veterans and their families. Their Center of Excellence initiative looks to continue their commitment to veterans by creating a network of university hospitals that specialize in assisting veterans who suffer from PTSD.

House Resolution 1746 would resolve that the House of Representatives recognizes and supports the efforts of Welcome Back Veterans and encourages the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish innovative public-private partnerships for the treatment and research of posttraumatic stress disorder in teaching hospitals across this country.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1746.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to my good friend and colleague from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. I thank my good friend and former Long Islander, now from Indiana, for his leadership and for recognizing me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution which I had the privilege of introducing and sponsoring. I want to thank the leaders, members and staff of the Armed Services Committee and the Veterans' Affairs Committee for their support and cooperation on this vitally important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution recognizes the efforts of Welcome Back Veterans in providing critically needed treatment for PTSD to veterans and active members of the Armed Forces. Welcome Back Veterans is a partner-

ship with Major League Baseball Charities, the Entertainment Industry Foundation and the McCormick Foundation. They are creating a network of university hospitals to address the mental health needs of our servicemembers and their families.

To date, Welcome Back Veterans has raised over \$12 million in private funding to support the treatment and research of PTSD through grants to other service organizations and has provided treatment to over 5,000 veterans and active duty servicemembers. They have a broad and integrated and innovative approach towards PTSD. And they should, because PTSD is known as a "silent killer." One of out of every five veterans from Afghanistan and Iraq has been affected. It doesn't always have physical symptoms that are easily recognized. It impacts not just the servicemember but the family member, loved ones, children. Servicemembers and veterans with PTSD are at a higher risk for other challenges, such as depression; higher risk of alcohol and drug abuse; six times more likely to commit suicide than people without PTSD.

Mr. Speaker, this is a massive problem and it requires a massive response. It's not just the response from the VA and the Department of Defense. They are on the front lines of helping those who have been on the front lines with PTSD. But it's got to go even broader and deeper than that. We need partners. We need university hospitals. We need good philanthropic organizations like Major League Baseball Charities and the Entertainment Industry Foundation and the McCormick Foundation. They have assembled a team that is addressing this critical need, and this resolution encourages the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to not only support that team but continue to build and expand the public-private partnerships that will make sure that anybody that we send into combat or into the military theater or into the Department of Defense who comes back with PTSD has access to treatment and cures.

I want to thank the gentleman again for his leadership.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to commend Congressman ISRAEL for introducing this much needed resolution and also as a veteran myself and as a physician, we need to be looking for public-private partnerships. I couldn't be happier with this because the VA is not meeting the entire need that we have of our veterans right now in treating PTSD. We need to look at innovative ways to put these young men and women back into the workforce and to help them. And certainly not just with the Iraq and Afghanistan war but through the Vietnam War and World War II. Many of our troops out there are dealing with this very, very serious problem. I want to thank these organizations privately for stepping up.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to offer my enthusiastic endorsement

of H. Res. 1746, recognizing and supporting the efforts of the non-profit organization, Welcome Back Veterans, in supplementing the world-class care that the Departments of Defense and Veterans' Affairs offer to our returning troops. The grassroots efforts of Welcome Back Veterans, Major League Baseball and the Boston Red Sox Foundation are testaments to the strength of the American spirit and patriotism.

We all owe our veterans a debt of gratitude that we cannot repay easily or quickly. As civilians, we will likely never be able to understand the sacrifice our veterans have made to safeguard the freedom we enjoy, the freedom that makes our Nation the greatest in the world. We can, however, honor our servicemembers by following the examples of Welcome Back Veterans by providing the resources they need to be healthy.

Major League Baseball also deserves praise for supporting the Welcome Back program for supporting the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder research being done at Massachusetts General in Boston, Weill Cornell in New York, the University of Michigan and Stanford University in California. These institutions have also moved into previously uncharted space by providing supportive services to the families of patients suffering from PTSD.

Additionally, the League recently honored service men and women on Veteran's Day. I'm fortunate to represent a veteran who made significant contributions to World War II and Major League Baseball, Hall of Fame Cleveland Indians' pitcher Bob Feller. Mr. Feller was the first major leaguer to volunteer for active duty, enlisting in the Navy on Dec. 9, 1941, two days after Pearl Harbor and 36 days after his 23rd birthday. After surviving some of the most violent, and important sea battles of the war, Feller returned to the Indians and finished his career with 266 wins and 2,581 strikeouts. Mr. Feller, without a doubt, was a phenomenal athlete and still is a true patriot. The League's honor of him and the other veterans reminds us not to take for granted the freedom to have a national pastime.

I am proud of all the veterans in my Congressional District, and in America. Many of these men and women shoulder the psychological burden of war long after they return home, and we must not let them do so alone. Thanks to the efforts of the Boston Red Sox Foundation, Major League Baseball, McCormick Foundation, Entertainment Industry Foundation and University Hospitals at Weill Cornell, the University of Michigan and Stanford University through Welcome Back Veterans and executive agencies, we are making sure our service men and women enjoy the quality of life they so bravely defended. Again, I applaud these efforts, and challenge members of Congress to continuously build public-private partnerships that advance the treatment of PTSD.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today in support of H. Res. 1746, "Recognizing and supporting the efforts of Welcome Back Veterans to augment the services provided by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs in providing timely and world-class care for veterans and members of the Armed Forces suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and related psychiatric disorders."

I would like to begin by thanking my colleague, Representative ISRAEL, for introducing

this resolution to the House, which encourages the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish innovative public-private partnerships for the treatment and research of PTSD in teaching hospitals across the country. I urge my colleagues to also support this resolution, as it honors the fact that those who have fought for our Nation should remain a priority.

It is important that we, as a Nation, continue to recognize that our great country stands strongly today because of the dedication and sacrifice of American veterans. The United States is surely indebted to the veterans of every conflict, who have made great sacrifices for themselves and their families in defense of our national security. Our freedom is intertwined with the sacrifices of our veterans, whose devotion to our way of life is unparalleled. I am privileged to stand before you today and officially honor their sacrifices and the role they play in our Nation.

Every Veterans Day, Americans come together to remember those who have served our country around the world in the name of freedom and democracy. The debt that we owe to them is immeasurable. Their sacrifices and those of their families are freedom's foundation. Without the brave efforts of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and Coast Guardsmen and their families, our country would not live so freely.

Deployed soldiers frequently and continually engage in high-intensity combat operations, exposing them to potential triggers for PTSD or other psychiatric conditions. A 2008 report published by the RAND Corporation estimated that one in five Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are affected by PTSD. Those with PTSD are at high risk for developing other psychological disorders, such as depression.

Furthermore, those suffering with PTSD are more likely to engage in self-destructive behaviors, such as alcohol and substance abuse, and are six times more likely than persons without PTSD to commit suicide. PTSD has been associated with unemployment and a work productivity loss, and when left untreated, exacts an enormous toll on individuals, families, and society as a whole.

This resolution not only solidifies the importance of Veterans Day, but also extends the importance of support for veterans and their health and safety throughout the year. In observing Veterans Day, the people of the United States must also encourage the education of our youth on how those dedicated individuals have contributed to the United States' history and today's society. We must continue the tradition of honoring those who have served for the greatest causes, freedom, democracy, and justice; their commitment to the United States at home and abroad should never be forgotten. I am truly proud to rise in support of the recognition of Welcome Back Veterans for their commitment to taking care of our soldiers.

We recognize and honor the veterans of the Armed Forces not only of today, but also of years past, who have sacrificed their lives for our great Nation. This resolution reaffirms our country's utmost respect and pride for our service people who have contributed to the shaping of the United States' history and our current place in the world today. It shows the true patriotic spirit that many Americans possess, and their willingness to give back to those who have given so much to maintain our freedom.

Currently, our Nation has 3 million troops and reservists, and 23 million veterans, who deserve the greatest respect from their fellow citizens. Our Nation has a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment maintaining the wellbeing of the men and women who have uniforms in defense of this country, and we must ensure that this legacy continues in the future.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I too want to thank my colleague Mr. ISRAEL for his leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to unanimously support House Resolution 1746, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1746, 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. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

EXCLUDING SECURITY AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT FROM ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5470) to exclude an external power supply for certain security or life safety alarms and surveillance system components from the application of certain energy efficiency standards under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5470

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

SECTION 1. EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR CLASS A EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLIES.

Section 325(u)(3) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(u)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "(D)" and inserting "(E)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(E) NONAPPLICATION OF NO-LOAD MODE ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS TO EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLIES FOR CERTAIN SECURITY OR LIFE SAFETY ALARMS OR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS.—

"(i) DEFINITION OF SECURITY OR LIFE SAFETY ALARM OR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM.—In this subparagraph:

"(I) IN GENERAL.—The term 'security or life safety alarm or surveillance system' means