

lead to higher spending by the Federal Government and lower tax revenues, which would lead to more debt.

Perhaps most important to my Republican colleagues, this is from *The Wall Street Journal*:

Some Republicans think they are sure to hold the House in 2014. The Kamikazes could end up ensuring the return of an all-Democratic rule.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT TIMOTHY RAYMOND MCGILL

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Timothy Raymond McGill, a member of the Rhode Island National Guard who was killed in combat last Saturday while serving as a member of the United States Army's elite Special Forces unit in Afghanistan.

A life-long resident of New Jersey, Sergeant McGill enlisted in the Marine Corps immediately after high school and was still training in boot camp when terrorists struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. After serving in Iraq, he joined the Rhode Island National Guard as an anti-armor specialist and just 2 years ago became a weapons sergeant with the Army Special Forces, the Green Berets.

Americans are blessed to live in a free and democratic society because of the heroic efforts and brave sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and owe an especially profound debt of gratitude to those like Timothy who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

We express our sincere condolences to Timothy's father, Raymond; his mother, Carol; and his two sisters, Megan and Lindsay. I pray that they find some small measure of comfort in knowing that an entire Nation is deeply grateful and shall keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

CONGRATULATING SKILLSUSA MEDAL RECIPIENTS

(Mr. McNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize students from my district who demonstrated excellence in technical, academic, and employability skills at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference held this past June in Kansas City, Missouri.

The SkillsUSA Conference brings together high school students, college students, and teachers with industry experts to participate in contests that demonstrate their abilities in technology, business, criminal justice, culinary arts, and many more fields.

Students from the Weber Institute in Stockton received gold medals for their project in human services, and

students from Bear Creek High School in Stockton, California, received the bronze medal for their project in health services. These students have proven that they will not only be successful in their future careers, but that they will excel and be leaders in their fields.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these young adults on their academic achievements and to recognize the importance of the SkillsUSA Conference.

INSURANCE PREMIUM INCREASES

(Mr. GARCIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an impending problem, which is the increase of insurance premiums in south Florida and throughout our country.

The Biggert-Waters Act of 2012 will burden many homeowners with flood insurance increases of up to 25 percent for years to come. Congress must act to reverse these increases and ensure they do not undermine our housing market.

Mr. Speaker, this is a national problem. This act was passed before I came to office, but affects my constituents and the Nation as a whole, and seriously threatens our economic recovery. There is already a bill that can delay these increases and gives us time to work on this problem. Let's act now.

Mr. Speaker, this is neither a Democratic problem nor a Republican problem. This is a national problem. Perhaps if we work on real problems as opposed to ideological problems, we can find the common ground that all Americans wish us to work on.

I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting our hardworking homeowners by creating a commonsense solution that addresses this crisis.

BUDGETING PRIORITIES

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the impact of the ongoing budget debates in Washington and how they are affecting the hardworking people that I'm honored to serve in Illinois.

Last November, the people of the 17th District of Illinois elected me because they were sick and tired of the partisan gridlock in Congress. I spent a short time here in Congress working across the aisle to find commonsense solutions to the problems facing our Nation. But too many in Washington have the wrong priorities—putting politics over people. Let me just offer one example.

During the last month, I have visited Head Start programs throughout my district. Head Start, as you may know, provides early childhood education and is an important downpayment on our

region's economic well-being. In fact, for every dollar invested in Head Start, we get a \$7 to \$9 return. But due to shortsighted cuts, needy children and families are being turned away at the door.

In the region I serve, there are literally hundreds of children waiting to be enrolled in Head Start, while dedicated staff members continue to have to cut back. This is unacceptable.

I am willing to work with those who I disagree with and who disagree with me to find reasonable solutions that put people before politics. Let's find solutions that put Americans first.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 1412) to improve and increase the availability of on-job training and apprenticeship programs carried out by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. EXTENSIONS OF EXPIRING AUTHORITIES AFFECTING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

(a) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE MONTHLY ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE TO VETERANS WITH DISABILITY INVITED BY UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 322(d)(4) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting "and \$500,000 for the period beginning October 1, 2013, and ending December 31, 2013" after "2013".

(2) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 322 of such title is amended by striking "United States Paralympics, Inc.," each place it appears and inserting "United States Olympic Committee".

(b) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 521A of such title is amended—

(A) in subsection (g), by inserting "and \$2,000,000 for the period beginning October 1, 2013, and ending December 31, 2013" after "2013"; and

(B) in subsection (l), by striking "The Secretary may only provide assistance under this section during fiscal years 2010 through 2013."

and inserting “The Secretary may not provide assistance under this section after December 31, 2013.”.

(2) **TECHNICAL CORRECTION.**—Such section is further amended—

(A) except in subsection (d)(4), by striking “United States Paralympics, Inc.,” each place it appears and inserting “United States Olympic Committee”;

(B) in subsection (d)(4), by striking “United States Paralympics, Inc.” and inserting “United States Olympic Committee”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(m) **APPLICABILITY TO COMMONWEALTHS AND TERRITORIES OF UNITED STATES.**—The provisions of this section and section 322 of this title shall apply with respect to the following in the same manner and to the same degree as the United States Olympic Committee:

“(1) The American Samoa National Olympic Committee.

“(2) Guam National Olympic Committee.

“(3) Comité Olímpico de Puerto Rico.

“(4) Such entities as the Secretary considers appropriate to represent the interests of the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States Virgin Islands under this section and section 322 of this title.”.

(3) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 5 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 521A and inserting the following new item: “521A. Assistance for United States Olympic Committee.”.

(c) **EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTION OF COPAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL CARE AND NURSING HOME CARE.**—Section 1710(f)(2)(B) of such title is amended by striking “September 30, 2013” and inserting “September 30, 2014”.

(d) **EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR RECOVERY FROM THIRD PARTIES OF COST OF CARE AND SERVICES FURNISHED TO VETERANS WITH HEALTH-PLAN CONTRACTS FOR NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.**—Section 1729(a)(2)(E) of such title is amended by striking “October 1, 2013” and inserting “October 1, 2014”.

(e) **EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITIES AFFECTING HOMELESS VETERANS.**—

(1) **HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.**—Section 2021(e)(1)(F) of such title is amended by striking “2013” and inserting “2014”.

(2) **REFERRAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES: VETERANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS WHO ARE TRANSITIONING FROM CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.**—Section 2023(d) of such title is amended—

(A) by inserting “to enter into a contract” before “to provide”; and

(B) by striking “September 30, 2013” and inserting “September 30, 2014”.

(f) **EXTENSION OF PREVIOUSLY FULLY-FUNDED AUTHORITIES AFFECTING HOMELESS VETERANS.**—

(1) **COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS.**—Section 2013 of such title is amended by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

“(6) \$250,000,000 for fiscal year 2014.

“(7) \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each subsequent fiscal year.”.

(2) **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.**—Section 2044(e)(1)(E) of such title is amended by striking “for fiscal year 2013” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014”.

(3) **GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.**—Section 2061(d)(1) of such title is amended by striking “through 2013” and inserting “through 2014”.

(g) **EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES CAUSING DIFFICULTY WITH AMBULATING.**—Section 2101(a)(4) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking “The Secretary’s” and inserting “(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary’s”;

(2) in subparagraph (A), as designated by paragraph (1), by striking “September 30, 2013” and inserting “September 30, 2014”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) In fiscal year 2014, the Secretary may not approve more than 30 applications for assistance under paragraph (1) for disabled veterans described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii).”.

(h) **EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CALCULATE NET VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY SECURING DEFAULTED LOAN FOR PURPOSES OF LIQUIDATION.**—Section 3732(c)(11) of such title is amended by striking “October 1, 2013” and inserting “October 1, 2014”.

(i) **EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM ON ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS RECEIVING HEALTH CARE.**—Section 205 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e), by striking “2-year” and inserting “3-year”; and

(2) in subsection (h), by striking “and 2011” and inserting “and 2014”.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF USE OF NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF NEW HIRES FOR INCOME VERIFICATION PURPOSES FOR CERTAIN VETERANS BENEFITS.

(a) **SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.**—Section 453(j)(11) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 653(j)(11)) is amended by striking subparagraph (G) and inserting the following new subparagraph (G):

“(G) **EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority under this paragraph shall be in effect as follows:

“(i) During the period beginning on December 26, 2007, and ending on November 18, 2011.

“(ii) During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2013 and ending 180 days after that date.”.

(b) **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**—Section 5317A of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following new subsection (d):

“(d) **EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority under this section shall be in effect as follows:

“(1) During the period beginning on December 26, 2007, and ending on November 18, 2011.

“(2) During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2013 and ending 180 days after that date.”.

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE AND RATIFICATION.

(a) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This Act shall take effect on October 1, 2013, except that Section 2 (a) shall take effect on September 30, 2013.

(b) **RATIFICATION.**—If this Act is not enacted on or before September 30, 2013, any actions undertaken by the Department of Veterans Affairs under the authorities extended by this Act during the period beginning on such date and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be deemed ratified.

SEC. 5. SCORING OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring authorities affecting veterans and their families, and for other purposes.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on Senate amendments to H.R. 1412.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate amendments we are discussing today to H.R. 1412 would extend a number of expiring authorities affecting the daily lives and long-term well-being of our servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

The important initiatives that would be extended through this legislation include those that provide adaptive sports programs and specially adapted housing grants for disabled veterans and supported services—such as housing and employment assistance—for homeless veterans.

The bill would also extend for 1 year the Department’s authority to provide childcare assistance to certain veterans receiving intensive health care services.

Further, it would extend VA’s authority to collect copayments for hospital and nursing home care and to recover from third parties the cost of care and services that are furnished to veterans with health plan contracts for nonservice-connected conditions through September 30, 2014.

Needless to say, each of these programs is critical to ensuring the efficient and effective delivery of high-quality health care and benefits to veterans in communities across our country.

The committee will continue to be vigorous in our oversight of each of these programs to ensure the prompt delivery of needed benefits and services to veterans and the appropriate use of taxpayer dollars.

This legislation represents a bipartisan, bicameral effort. I want to express my gratitude to the ranking member, Mr. MICHAUD, and to Ms. BROWN, who is here with us on the floor, the chairman and the ranking member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee—BERNIE SANDERS of Vermont and RICHARD BURR of North Carolina—for their hard work and their leadership in this effort.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in the Senate amendments to H.R. 1412 and reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 1412, as amended, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2013.

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VA would lose the authority to continue a number of critical programs

that, without action, would expire next week. These programs assist our most vulnerable veterans reintegrating back into society and into their communities.

With this legislation, wrap-around services for homeless veterans and their families would be authorized to continue. Services such as counseling, job training, job referrals, financial assistance, case management, housing, and the special needs for the frail, elderly, and seriously mentally ill veterans will continue.

We listened to veterans when they told us that they were busy with jobs, school, and families and, as a result, found it difficult to get the health care they needed without childcare assistance. This measure extended for 1 year VA's authority to provide childcare assistance for certain veterans receiving intensive health care services.

This bill would extend the authority to provide a monthly assistance allowance to veterans with disabilities who are invited by the U.S. Olympic Committee to participate on the U.S. Paralympics team. More than 14,000 veterans with disabilities have benefited from these activities. The results for these veteran athletes have been astonishing both in terms of athletic accomplishment and personal accomplishment.

This bill extends eligibility for specially adapted housing for our most disabled veterans. It would allow them to live more independently in their daily lives.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we have a moral obligation to ensure that we do what needs to be done to help those who have worn the uniform receive the benefits and services they have earned. These extensions of critical programs we are considering today will help us do all we can.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN), a gentleman who has worn the uniform of this country and served this country well.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MICHAUD for working with the members of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees to pass this important legislation.

Specifically, I am happy to see the extension of the Veterans Paralympic program, which reflects my legislation, H.R. 1402, the Veterans Paralympic Act, which passed unanimously out of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee before being combined in an omnibus bill in the full committee. This program ensures that disabled veterans in local communities throughout the country continue to have opportunities for rehabilitation, stress relief, and higher achievement through adaptive sports.

U.S. Olympic Committee's Paralympics Chief Charlie Huebner testified at a hearing that "participation

in sports and other athletic activities can help speed the rehabilitation process for disabled veterans." As a Marine Corps combat veteran, I couldn't agree more with Mr. Huebner, and I personally understand the importance of rehabilitation opportunities for returning veterans.

Finally, although I fully support the passage of the extenders package, I am disappointed that the substance of H.R. 1412 was not included in this bill. H.R. 1412, the Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act, seeks to build on an existing, yet little known and underutilized on-the-job training program that assists veterans by allowing them to use their educational benefits to learn a trade or skill by participation in an approved apprenticeship or on-the-job training program.

Employers in my district have expressed their desire to work with this program and hire more veterans because they know how valuable a veteran can be to their organization. Additionally, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America has endorsed the legislation by saying, "IAVA stands ready to support and promote innovative ideas like this to end the veterans' unemployment crisis."

It is my understanding that the original provisions of H.R. 1412 were dropped without prejudice and that they will be part of an upcoming negotiation between the House and the Senate. I look forward to seeing the substance of that legislation advance, and I will be working with Chairman MILLER to ensure that happens.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we have no more speakers at this time, so we are prepared to close.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1412, as amended. I want to thank Chairman MILLER for working in a very bipartisan way for veterans.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I, too, thank my colleague Ms. BROWN from Jacksonville for her hard work on behalf of veterans and her ability to work with us in the committee in a bipartisan fashion.

I once again encourage all Members to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to express my support for the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2013. This legislation includes the reauthorization of several fundamental programs that serve some of our most vulnerable veterans who are overrepresented in our nation's homeless population. These programs are the Homeless Veterans Reintegration program, the Grant and Per Diem Program for Homeless Veterans with Special Needs program, the Supportive Services for Veterans Families programs, and the Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program.

I believe that Congress and the VA must do what it necessary to end the homeless veterans problem, which is why I introduced H.R.

2485, the Helping Homeless Veterans Act. In addition to the programs that will be reauthorized in H.R. 1412, H.R. 2485 would reauthorize several other homeless veterans programs, such as the Therapeutic Transitional Housing component to the Compensated Work Therapy Program and the Acquired Property Sales for Homeless Veterans Program. This important legislation has been endorsed by numerous Veteran Service Organizations, including the American Legion, the Military Officers Association of America, the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, and the Center for American Homeless Veterans. Without Congressional action, we will neglect our nation's heroes by letting these programs expire at the end of this calendar year.

These veterans fought for our country and now it is our time to fight for them. I commend Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MICHAUD for their leadership on this legislation to reauthorize these programs, and I appreciate their effort to end homelessness among veterans.

With so many men and women returning home and transitioning to civilian life, now is not the time to waiver on our resolve.

I encourage my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 1412, and also join me in supporting H.R. 2485, the Helping Homeless Veterans Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 1412.

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. MILLER of Florida. Mr. 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EDWARD J. DEVITT UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2251) to designate the United States courthouse located at 118 South Mill Street, in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, as the "Edward J. Devitt United States Courthouse", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2251

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

["The United States courthouse located at 118 South Mill Street, in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, shall be known and designated as the "Edward J. Devitt United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

["Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Edward J. Devitt United States Courthouse"."]