

H.R. 4261, the Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014, which I sponsored along with Ranking Member KIRKPATRICK and full committee Ranking Member MICHAUD, restores the independence of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses to perform the role it has historically played, as intended by Congress, to improve the lives of ill gulf war veterans.

This bill is necessary because some career VA staff have been trying to revive the discredited 1990s fiction that nothing special happened to gulf war veterans' health and that the problems experienced by gulf war veterans are just "what happens after every war" due to psychological stress factors.

Because there is no scientific evidence for this position, VA staffers have resorted to manipulating research studies and reports to try and revive this discredited theory. A major new VA gulf war veteran survey, for example, included the questions necessary to identify PTSD but not Gulf War illness.

Most shockingly, VA has even manipulated new research of the Institute of Medicine by limiting the terms of its contracts. VA transformed the Institute of Medicine gulf war treatments study ordered by Congress into a report based largely on psychotherapies. The Research Advisory Committee objected strongly to these actions, which threatened to mislead treatment research just as science is finally turning the corner. VA retaliated by eliminating the independence of the committee, changing its charter to remove its authority to review the effectiveness of government research programs, and replacing the members serving on the committee. The effect of these changes can already be seen.

The section of the new 2014 Research Advisory Committee report that detailed VA's manipulations of research had to be removed because the committee's authority to review the effectiveness of VA's research programs had been eliminated.

The independent voice, so critical to honest research, will be all but replaced by September with those who seem to bend to VA's will.

H.R. 4261 will restore the authority of the committee and provide that its membership, instead of being appointed entirely by VA, will consist of nine members appointed by the chairs and ranking members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and three members chosen by VA. This arrangement follows the longstanding model of the bipartisan Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance at the Department of Education.

Current law provides that the Research Advisory Committee membership may include veterans, representatives of veterans, and the general public. While there are those who seek to limit veteran members to ill veterans, excluding most veterans service orga-

nization representatives and others, the Research Advisory Committee has been well-served by having both ill and other veterans serve on the committee.

It is important to remember that the unwillingness of the VA to honestly address this illness is the reason Congress created the Research Advisory Committee in the first place. The 1997 congressional report that led to that legislation was entitled, "Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses: VA, DOD Continue to Resist Strong Evidence Linking Toxic Causes to Chronic Health Effects."

Science has made great progress since then, thanks in no small measure to the work of the Research Advisory Committee, as well as to the effective Gulf War Illness Research Program that Congress created at the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. But this progress is all at risk if VA is able to again mislead science down blind alleys, directing scarce research dollars at the wrong target, as so often happened in the 1990s and 2000s.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I yield the gentleman an additional 1½ minutes.

Mr. COFFMAN. I thank the chairman.

It is also important to ask why the VA has pursued this course. Last month, we learned the answer. On April 22, 2014, Military Times reported that the VA Under Secretary for Benefits, Allison Hickey, objected even to using the term "Gulf War illness" because it "might imply a causal link between service in the gulf and poor health which could necessitate . . . disability compensation for veterans who served in the gulf."

Even if this policy was morally justifiable and saving money was the only goal, it is wrong. It will cost the Federal Government far less in the long run to face this problem honestly and pursue effective treatments, rather than to deny benefits and provide misleading research.

We have strong support for this legislation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Veterans, or AMVETS, and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Without an independent Research Advisory Committee, the slow but steady progress toward identifying treatments for Gulf War illness will most surely end.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to acknowledge the work of Mr. Jim Binns of Arizona, who has made countless trips back here advocating for this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support it. We really need to do right by our gulf war veterans.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 4261, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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 pass the bill, H.R. 4261.

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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TERRY) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 599, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 503, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

URGING CHINA TO RESPECT THE FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, EXPRESSION, AND RELIGION AND ALL FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 599) urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the freedom of assembly, expression, and religion and all fundamental human rights and the rule of law for all its citizens and to stop censoring discussion of the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations and their violent suppression, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 379, nays 1, not voting 51, as follows:

[Roll No. 241]

YEAS—379

Aderholt
Amash

Amodei
Bachmann

Bachus
Barber

Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummins
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Doyle
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo

Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Holt
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Long

Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard

Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schradler
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Simpson
Sinema

Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Swallow (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky

Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—1

Jones
NOT VOTING—51

Beatty
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Campbell
Capito
Davis, Danny
Dingell
Duckworth
Esty
Fortenberry
Foster
Fudge
Gibbs
Griffin (AR)
Hanna
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)

Hinojosa
Honda
Hultgren
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kind
Lankford
Loebsock
McCarthy (NY)
McIntyre
McKeon
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Palazzo
Pearce
Peters (MI)
Quigley

Renacci
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rush
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Schakowsky
Sewell (AL)
Shuster
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stivers
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Turner
Waters

□ 1857

Mr. BECERRA changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA, TRAGEDY

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with a heavy heart. On Friday night, my home community was rocked by unspeakable violence, which left six students and their assailant dead and 13 others injured. The rampage shook the communities of Isla Vista and the University of California in Santa Barbara, Californians, and the Nation.

Last night, I joined with my community at UCSB and in Isla Vista to honor those we lost. Together, we have taken the first steps towards making sense of the senseless. It will be a long journey. We have many questions, and over the weeks and months ahead perhaps more will be posed than we can answer. But we will work through it together.

While we all struggle to make sense of this tragedy, I want to thank you,

my colleagues, and communities across the Nation for your prayers, your kind words, and your support. This act was fueled by hate, but in the wake of this tragedy, we as a Nation have shown that in a dark time we do not walk alone, we do not grieve alone, so we will not have to heal alone.

Today, we remember the victims: George Chen; “James” Chung You-on Hong; Way-han “David” Wang; Katherine Breann Cooper; Christopher Ross Michaels-Martinez; and Veronika Weiss.

We send our deepest sympathies to their families and to their friends. We lend support to the injured. We pledge to stand with the Santa Barbara community, and all those touched by violence, to do all we can to prevent this sort of tragedy in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to ask that the House observe a moment of silence for the victims, for their families, their friends, the UC-Santa Barbara community, and all who mourn in the wake of this senseless tragedy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will please rise for a moment of silence.

NATIONAL DESERT STORM AND DESERT SHIELD WAR MEMORIAL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 503) to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 370, nays 0, not voting 61, as follows:

[Roll No. 242]

YEAS—370

Aderholt	Black	Camp
Amash	Blackburn	Cantor
Amodel	Blumenauer	Capps
Bachmann	Bonamici	Capuano
Bachus	Boustany	Cárdenas
Barber	Brady (PA)	Carney
Barletta	Bridenstine	Carson (IN)
Barr	Brooks (AL)	Carter
Barrow (GA)	Brooks (IN)	Cartwright
Barton	Broun (GA)	Cassidy
Bass	Brown (FL)	Castor (FL)
Becerra	Brownley (CA)	Castro (TX)
Benishek	Buchanan	Chabot
Bentivolio	Bucshon	Chaffetz
Bera (CA)	Burgess	Chu
Bilirakis	Bustos	Cicilline
Bishop (GA)	Butterfield	Clark (MA)
Bishop (NY)	Byrne	Clarke (NY)
Bishop (UT)	Calvert	Clay