

to just Republican-sponsored legislation, no matter how widely supported, runs counter to the bipartisan spirit of the committee and fails to recognize the great work of all committee Members. Republicans and Democrats have worked together to improve programs for the VA.

Finally, I am disappointed that H.R. 4399 was not included in the House amendment to H.R. 3230. Without it, we are falling short of our responsibility to hold all VA executives—I want to emphasize all VA executives—accountable for the grave failures lately.

□ 1330

I will work with Chairman MILLER and my Senate colleagues to ensure that the final agreement we reach regarding the accountability provisions of H.R. 3230 are as comprehensive and effective as possible.

I urge all conferees, once appointed, to adopt the spirit of bipartisanship that is the tradition of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

When our servicemembers do their jobs to earn these veterans benefits, they work together in a spirit of cooperation toward a national goal. We should do no less as we move forward with legislation to address reforms within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the motion to concur with the Senate amendments with a further amendment and the motion to go to conference.

Let us work together quickly and effectively to begin to address the problems facing the VA.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House resolution 628, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida.

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 3230, PAY OUR GUARD AND RESERVE ACT

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 628, I offer a motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Miller of Florida moves that the House insist on its amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3230 and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this motion is to authorize a conference to combine our two bills into something that is focused on the access

and accountability crisis that exists at VA.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the motion.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida.

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Sinema moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 3230 (an Act to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes) be instructed to recede from the House amendment and concur in the Senate amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I offer this motion to instruct because veterans in Arizona and across the country need action from Congress and from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Our motion instructs House conferees to accept the bipartisan bill, drafted by Senator JOHN MCCAIN and Senator BERNIE SANDERS and overwhelmingly approved by the Senate, so that we can immediately send a bill to the President's desk that will provide relief for our Nation's veterans.

The revelations that veterans at the Phoenix VA and veterans at other VA facilities across the country were placed on secret lists and had to wait months before seeing a doctor are immoral, irresponsible, and un-American. That veterans who served our country honorably may have died while waiting for care is unconscionable.

Ongoing audits by the VA and the VA Office of Inspector General revealed systemic problems with wait times, with the scheduling process, and with the honesty and integrity of the system. Those responsible for this disaster must be held accountable.

Many dedicated VA employees, many of them veterans themselves, work tirelessly to provide the best care to our veterans, but they are limited by this broken system, which is failing millions of our veterans.

The first priority of the VA and Congress must be to provide our veterans the care they need. This challenge does not need a Democratic or a Republican response. It demands an American response, and I appreciate the bipartisan leadership and work of Chairman MIL-

LER and Ranking Member MICHAUD. In fact, I cosponsored and voted for both of Chairman MILLER's bills.

I supported bipartisan legislation to give the Secretary of the VA a greater ability to hold underperforming senior executives accountable and to fire managers, like those in Phoenix who manipulated wait times and put veterans at risk.

I also supported bipartisan legislation directing the VA to use non-VA community providers to cut those wait times and increase the capacity and capabilities of the VA health care system.

In Phoenix, we have established a working group of community providers, veterans service organizations, and the local VA to work together to improve access to services.

We joined with the American Legion to establish a veterans crisis center to provide service to our veterans, and I would say thank you to the American Legion for moving so quickly and working with our community.

We have also started to fully utilize programs, like the Patient-Centered Community Care contract, which cuts into wait times for specialty and mental health care at the Phoenix VA. A new contract for primary care should be in place by the end of this month, but more action is required.

This conference should move quickly to accept the Senate language, which passed 93-3.

In addition to the good provisions in the House bill to improve access and accountability, the Senate language directs the VA to hire more doctors and nurses. It invests in 26 new VA facilities.

It provides for instate tuition for veterans, regardless of their home concept, a concept that the House overwhelmingly supported earlier this year. It extends post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to surviving spouses of veterans who died in the line of duty. It improves access to health care for military sexual assault survivors. It was scored as costing less than the House bill.

Both Republicans and Democrats want to provide the best possible care for our veterans and their families, and we want to move quickly to provide this care. That is why I urge my colleagues to accept this motion to instruct, so we can move a bill to the President's desk quickly, and we can provide the care and services our veterans have earned and deserve.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to instruct.

As our committee works in a bipartisan fashion in an ongoing investigation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, we have continued to work and will continue to work in that bipartisan manner through legislation and aggressive oversight.

Veterans are not a partisan issue and must remain as such. That is why I am a little bit confused about the motion to instruct that has been offered by my colleagues across the aisle today.

With the vote that was just held to authorize us to go to conference, it would really not be prudent to prematurely direct our conferees to already recede to the Senate position before we even sit down and discuss whatever the matter that we may have with the Senate is.

The House amendment contains the text of H.R. 4810 and H.R. 4031, which have both passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan majorities and could be taken up right now by the Senate and sent to the President today.

Since it is clear that the Senate doesn't intend to do that, our only option is to go to conference so that both Chambers—the House and the Senate—can work together to smooth out the differences.

I want to caution my colleagues that what we are dealing with right now is a very technical provision, a provision that will have a long-lasting effect on VA and the manner in which veterans throughout the country receive the needed care that they have earned.

The gravity of the issues before us and the differences in how we solve them does require that the House Members be given an opportunity to sit down face to face with our Senate colleagues, so that we might make sure that we get this right for our veterans and their families.

I agree with a lot of the intent of many of the provisions in the legislation, but I do have some concerns. First, as the Senate bill is currently written, it provides an expedited appeal right for Senior Executive Service employees at VA who are fired by the new removal authority that is authorized by this bill.

The House has already passed similar provisions in H.R. 4031, with appeal rights that follow exactly what we, as Members of Congress, have in regards to our congressional staff. While I am open to discussing appeal rights, I am concerned that the Senate bill really doesn't change the status quo and could, in fact, limit the Secretary's authority to remove poor-performing employees. In short, without accountability, reform will not be possible.

Secondly, another major provision of the Senate bill would be to provide the authority for VA to hire additional doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel to provide and improve access.

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has heard multiple times, during the course of our investigation, that one issue with VA's current policy on capacity and scheduling is that VA doctors do not see nearly enough patients in one day compared to doctors in the private sector.

We need to ensure that VA health care staff and technology are used efficiently first, then address new hiring.

Therefore, before Congress authorizes new funding for a whole new slew of medical personnel, I believe that VA managers must reexamine their current policies and see if they can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the personnel that are already in place.

Finally, the Senate bill essentially gives the VA a blank check to fund the requirements of this bill. Again, in hearing after hearing, the committee heard from VA about their wasteful spending on IT programs, poorly managed contracts, large bonuses, extravagant conferences, and bloated bureaucracy.

In short, this is not an agency for which Congress should be cutting a no-strings-attached blank check. It is imperative that Congress follow a more methodical, yet quick approach to funding new requirements which preserves Congress' oversight responsibility to protect taxpayer resources provided on behalf of America's veterans. This is the House position, and we ought to fight for it.

Now, look, I don't doubt my colleague's sincerity to quickly and efficiently pass legislation to help address the countless issues that are facing the Department of Veterans Affairs today. However, the best way to do this and to ensure that all of the issues are on the table to work out our differences with the Senate is with a conference committee.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the motion to instruct, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my colleague from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK).

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the motion to instruct the conferees and ask that the conferees agree to the Senate amendments to H.R. 3230, the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014.

I also ask that the conferees work with urgency to resolve the differences between the House and Senate bills. Veterans cannot continue to wait. They have already waited too long. We have a duty to do our job and act now.

I introduced H.R. 4841, the companion legislation to the Senate-passed legislation, because it addresses several of the issues that currently plague the VA health care system.

This bill, sponsored by Senators SANDERS and MCCAIN, is good for veterans in my district, in Arizona, and veterans across this country. It contains provisions that are nearly identical to the House-passed legislation that I supported, including the expansion of non-VA care to veterans that cannot get timely appointment and granting the VA Secretary the authority to immediately fire high-level officials who are not doing their jobs.

H.R. 4841 does more. It will provide for an expedited hiring of more doctors, nurses, and medical staff at understaffed VA medical hospitals and clinics

across the country. It will allow the VA to lease 26 new medical facilities.

It calls for an independent commission that will work to improve appointment scheduling, and it will improve access to health care for military sexual assault survivors. These additional measures are vital to address the access to care crisis in the VA health care system.

In addition to addressing the VA's access to care crisis, Sanders-McCain ensures that veterans using their post-9/11 GI Bill benefits receive in-state tuition at public colleges and universities, and it extends post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to surviving spouses.

Comprehensive legislation is needed to help our veterans. I think we can all agree that we must do everything we can to help those who have fought and sacrificed for us. Let's work together to get this legislation to the President as soon as possible.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ENYART), a veteran colleague.

□ 1345

Mr. ENYART. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a veteran and 35-year military member in support of swift action to remedy our veterans' health care concerns.

As former commanding general of the Illinois National Guard, I have seen firsthand the sacrifices our men and women in uniform make each day, sacrifices that affect not only themselves, but their families, as well. That is why it didn't come as a surprise to me to see so many family members standing beside their veterans at the Marion, Illinois, VA hospital 2 weeks ago.

I stopped by two facilities—one scheduled and one a complete surprise to the staff and administrators, a lesson learned from my days in the military. I wanted to see the true nature of the problem for myself. I didn't want to speak to administrators or to managers. More importantly, I wanted to speak to patients and to frontline workers.

Although most of the veterans I spoke to received quality care, far too many spoke of burdensome paperwork and of delays. Although the southern Illinois facilities I visited have better-than-average wait times for patients, even one patient on a waiting list is too many. And although most of the staff that report daily to our Nation's VA facilities are competent, caring individuals, there are some who are not.

That is why I support the two main goals of H.R. 3230, the Veterans Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014. This act will ensure that administrators at VA facilities can be removed from power in a timely and swift manner if they are not doing their jobs. It will also provide veterans the opportunity to seek care at private health care facilities as needed.

Join me in support of our veterans and the dire need to reform our VA health care system.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), my colleague on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Ms. TITUS. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Democratic motion to instruct conferees. As a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am working hard to ensure that veterans in Las Vegas and around the country have access to high-quality health care in a timely fashion.

I believe the Sanders-McCain compromise bill that passed the Senate 93-3 makes great strides towards meeting this goal. Specifically, I would like to highlight two provisions of the Sanders-McCain compromise that should be passed as soon as possible. Both pieces are legislation that I have introduced to help veterans and their families.

The first is H.R. 3441, the Spouses of Heroes Education Act. This legislation amends the post-9/11 GI Bill to expand the Fry Scholarship by making surviving spouses of members of the armed services eligible for the benefit program. This scholarship provides full in-State tuition, fees, a monthly living stipend, and a book allowance to children of servicemembers who have died in the line of duty. And for the first time, this change would extend to spouses the same benefit.

The second is H.R. 2527, the National Guard Military Sexual Trauma Parity Act, which would include extended counseling and treatment to servicemembers who have suffered sexual trauma while serving on inactive duty training. This legislation recently passed the House with unanimous bipartisan support.

Other provisions addressing the claims backlog, access to non-VA health care, and reform of scheduling and personnel problems are also critical to include.

So, as the conferees begin their work, it is important that we continue to keep the best interests of our Nation's heroes and their families in mind, that we put aside partisan differences, and that we work expeditiously to try and solve the problems that we have discovered at the VA.

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

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO).

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Thank you, Congresswoman.

Mr. Speaker, my time is short, and so I want to cut to the chase. The United States of America should honor its veterans and stand up for them in the same way that they stood up for us during their time of service.

Mr. Speaker, I had a chance, as have many other Members of Congress, to

visit with the Acting Secretary of the VA about a week ago in San Antonio and also to meet with some of the veterans who were being served there at Audie Murphy. These are folks who served during the Vietnam war, Korea, and other times of conflict. These are folks who are very proud people who don't ask a lot from their country but who are there for care.

Too often in Congress, we have been Monday morning quarterbacks rather than leaders on this issue. It was mentioned a bit earlier that veterans are not a partisan issue, and I agree with that. The problem in Washington these days is too often only partisan issues are the ones that get talked about. We have to take action as soon as we can to support our veterans and to make sure that the VA has the funding that it needs to do its job properly.

There was a story that the Acting Secretary told about his visit to Phoenix. If I recall it right, he said that there was a neurosurgeon in the meeting that he had with staff who mentioned that, as he was about to go into the room for surgery, there were two X-ray machines that were not working in Phoenix, and those were the conditions that these folks were trying to work under and to serve our veterans. We need to make sure that small government inefficiency is not an excuse for doing right by our veterans. And so I support this legislation.

I want to commend not only Chairman MILLER on that committee, but also the Senators, Senators MCCAIN and SANDERS, who have come together to put aside party politics, and also thank my Democratic colleagues, BETO O'ROURKE in Texas, and many fine people here in Congress who are working on this issue.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I think the question that needs to be asked is why in the world, with an almost \$160 billion budget, would there be two nonfunctioning machines inside a VA medical center? It just goes to show the incapability for the current bureaucracy that exists out there to do what they need to do.

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

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GARCIA).

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Arizona.

As a nation, we have a debt of gratitude to our veterans, a debt that will be very difficult to repay; but, nonetheless, we must make every effort to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I spent the last few weeks meeting with veterans in my district and getting firsthand accounts of their experiences at the hospital as well as its supporting clinics in south Florida.

While secret wait lists and months-long waits are inexcusable, it has become clear that the problems are much deeper than that. So many of my veterans felt that their concerns weren't

being heard—and they were absolutely right. On top of the long waits for appointments with doctors, we heard about the need for better transportation, greater use of technology, reduced wait times and more convenient hours.

Just this week, we held our first working group meeting in my district with local veterans as well as the director of the hospital and his administrative staff. It is an important step to a dialogue that is sorely needed.

While we in Washington can wait and bicker about this issue and the ongoing relationship between us and the hospital system and the Veterans Administration, what there is no question about is that the time has come to solve this problem. We as a nation must renew our commitment to serve our veterans with the same dignity and respect with which they served us. It is the absolute least we can do. By instructing House conferees to accept the McCain-Sanders compromise, we can quickly get the bill to the President and get on with the business of ensuring every veteran gets the care and need they deserve.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I think what is very curious is that if people would look at the bill that they are referring to today, that 80 percent of the text in that bill is already House-passed language. The Senate could pass that—could have passed that some time ago—and they have refused to do so. And now, all of a sudden, because it is wrapped up with a tiny little bow, it is the perfect piece of legislation.

I don't believe that my colleagues are trying to imply that the bickering that takes place is not supporting the veterans. The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has held 90 hearings in the 113th Congress. Over 50 of those are oversight hearings. The Senate has only held six oversight hearings. The House has been doing their job and has been doing it in a bipartisan fashion.

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

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, Mr. MILLER, just know that folks on both sides of the aisle are very, very grateful for his leadership, in particular the research that was done to uncover the tragedy that occurred in the Phoenix VA in my district. So know that folks on both sides of the aisle here in the House are very, very grateful for the bipartisan nature in which the Veterans' Affairs Committee has conducted its affairs during his tenure, and we appreciate his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), my colleague who serves on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. TAKANO. I thank the gentlewoman from Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to give praise to the gentleman from Florida, Chairman MILLER, for the way in which he has conducted the hearings and conducted the business of the Veterans'

Affairs Committee. In no way do we wish to imply that the House has not done its due diligence.

As my colleagues have mentioned, the motion before us to instruct the House conferees to accept the bipartisan McCain-Sanders bill—and I want to emphasize it is a bipartisan bill—that passed the Senate by 93 votes, would allow veterans to seek care outside the VA health care system if they face long wait times or if they live far from a VA medical facility. It also allows the VA to hire more doctors and nurses and authorizes leases for 26 new major VA facilities, which I do not believe the House language contains. It improves access to health care for military and sexual assault providers. Finally, it includes several nonhealth-related provisions, such as the provision of in-State tuition for all veterans at public colleges and universities. This is a provision that was authored by my friend, Mr. MILLER.

The revelation that numerous VA facilities manipulated data with respect to wait times is disturbing. It is even more disturbing to learn that those practices may have resulted in the deaths of dozens of our veterans.

Our veterans have sacrificed so much, and we owe it to them to make sure that they receive the best possible care from a system that is accountable and transparent. I urge my colleagues to support the motion to instruct conferees.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to remind the Members here on the floor that H.R. 357, the in-State tuition and bonus elimination bill, passed the House by 390-0; H.R. 4031, the VA accountability bill, passed this House in a wide, bipartisan fashion, 390-33; H.R. 4810, the access to care bill, passed this House unanimously, 400—we are hearing about 93-3? How about 426-0? Why don't we fight for what the House believes in once in a while around here instead of giving up to the Senate? H.R. 3521, the VA clinics—27 clinics are authorized in our bill. That was a 347-1 vote.

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

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY), my colleague who serves on the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the ranking member on the Health Subcommittee.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, thank you to the gentlewoman from Arizona.

I rise to support the motion to instruct conferees. I grew up in a military home. I personally understand the sacrifices our servicemembers and their families make in service to our Nation. My father was the proudest marine, my brother was a P-3 pilot for 20 years in the Navy, and my uncle served in both World War II and Vietnam.

When I was elected to Congress, I asked to serve on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee to represent our fu-

ture veterans at Naval Base Ventura County and throughout our country to represent our current veterans that live in Ventura County and throughout the country, and to represent our military families who also commit to serve our Nation.

One of the greatest pleasures of working on the Veterans' Affairs Committee is addressing the issues at hand in a bipartisan way, and I want to thank Chairman MILLER for his leadership and Ranking Member MICHAUD because this committee has remained in a bipartisan mode to address these issues. Every week, we discuss innovative ways to improve access to good-paying jobs, how to strengthen education opportunities for our veterans, to reduce wait times for critical and fundamental health care, and much, much more.

I was deeply honored when my colleagues elected me to serve as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Health to ensure our veterans' health needs are properly addressed, including improving access to traditional and mental health care.

As my colleagues know, there is a lot of improvement that needs to take place at the VA. We have a sacred responsibility to those who serve our country in uniform. Just as the military leaves no one behind on the battlefield, we must leave no veteran behind when they come home.

□ 1400

The motion to instruct is the best path to completing a conference agreement to fix the long-term problems at the VA. Let's ensure we are serving our veterans as well as they have served us.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I remind my fellow colleagues in the Chamber today that there are 12 pieces of legislation that have passed our committee and this full House that await action in the United States Senate, and they continue to languish.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN), who serves on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of the first words of the first President of the United States, George Washington, whose words are worth repeating at this time:

The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country.

I want to thank the chairman for his leadership. Those 90 hearings, I was at most of them. I know the House has done their work, whether it was here in Washington, D.C., or in the field and around the country. I am the senior member on the committee, having served on the committee for over 22 years.

I have to remind the committee and this House that the problems with the

veterans did not start today. They are long-term problems. I am pleased with the fact that I was on the committee when we passed the largest VA budget in the history of the United States.

In addition to that, forward budgeting—which I thought would never happen, but the veterans have not caught up with the whims of the House, not passing this appropriation or not passing this authorization, so we know today what kind of veterans benefits that we are going to get.

Many other veterans—in fact, over 99 percent of them say that they are very satisfied with the system. They love their VA system, but the key is that there are some problems, and we need to work in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion with the Senate to make sure that we address these challenges.

I really do believe to whom God has given much, much is expected, and we have to make sure that the veterans get the care that we have promised them.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I remind my friends here that the whims of the Congress to not pass appropriation bills blows very strong over on the Senate side because the House passes its Military Construction-VA bill year in and year out. It was the Senate that chose not to pass any appropriation bills last year.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The gentlewoman from Arizona has 9½ minutes remaining.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all Members who have come to speak on this very important matter. This should be a bipartisan matter, and it has been in our committee and certainly in this entire House.

I am still wondering why in the world we would just now vote to go to conference with the Senate on 80 percent of the bills that have already passed the House, and then we would turn around, and we would have a motion to instruct the conferees to just forget what the House said, take up the Senate bill.

It doesn't make sense that we would do that. In a normal course of legislative business, this is the way the process works: the House, the Senate get together, and we work out the issues that concern all of us.

I would ask the minority—or I would request the minority to not use this motion to instruct in one single political ad. I hope that I don't see this vote used in any political ads because our committee does things in a bipartisan fashion. Congressman MICHAUD and I have worked together diligently to keep the votes from becoming partisan.

I cannot see any other reason to have the vote today on the motion to instruct conferees to accept the Senate-

passed legislation after we have done the same thing in the House, passed the same bills in the House that they could take up on our side, yet we are going to cede to the Senate position.

With that, I urge defeat of the motion to instruct.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MICHAUD for their tremendous leadership and the work that they have done over the years to provide veterans with the best possible care, holding multiple hearings and passing a multitude of bipartisan bills. By working together, I know we can address this crisis and create a VA system that our veterans deserve.

I urge our colleagues to support this motion to instruct, so we get a bill to the President's desk quickly. This is not the end of our work, but it is an important step forward to meet the needs of our veterans.

I trust that Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MICHAUD, and the members of the conference committee will represent the interests of veterans very well in our conference committee.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 198, nays 220, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 316]

YEAS—198

Barber	Conyers	Garcia
Barrow (GA)	Cooper	Gibson
Bass	Costa	Grayson
Beatty	Courtney	Green, Al
Becerra	Crowley	Green, Gene
Bera (CA)	Cuellar	Grijalva
Bishop (GA)	Cummings	Gutiérrez
Bishop (NY)	Davis (CA)	Hahn
Blumenauer	Davis, Danny	Hanabusa
Bonamici	DeFazio	Hastings (FL)
Brady (PA)	DeGette	Heck (WA)
Braley (IA)	Delaney	Higgins
Brown (FL)	DeLauro	Himes
Brownley (CA)	DelBene	Hinojosa
Bustos	Deutch	Holt
Butterfield	Dingell	Honda
Capps	Doggett	Horsford
Capuano	Doyle	Hoyer
Cárdenas	Duckworth	Huffman
Carney	Edwards	Israel
Carson (IN)	Ellison	Jackson Lee
Cartwright	Engel	Jeffries
Castor (FL)	Enyart	Johnson (GA)
Castro (TX)	Eshoo	Johnson, E. B.
Chu	Esty	Kaptur
Cicilline	Farr	Keating
Clark (MA)	Fattah	Kennedy
Clarke (NY)	Foster	Kildee
Clay	Frankel (FL)	Kilmer
Cleaver	Fudge	Kind
Clyburn	Gabbard	Kirkpatrick
Cohen	Gallego	Kuster
Connolly	Garamendi	Langevin

Larsen (WA)	Napolitano	Schwartz
Larson (CT)	Neal	Scott (VA)
Lee (CA)	Negrete McLeod	Scott, David
Levin	Nolan	Serrano
Lewis	O'Rourke	Sewell (AL)
Lipinski	Owens	Shea-Porter
Loeback	Pallone	Sherman
Lofgren	Pascarella	Sinema
Lowenthal	Pastor (AZ)	Sires
Lowe	Payne	Slaughter
Lujan Grisham	Pelosi	Smith (WA)
(NM)	Perlmutter	Speier
Luján, Ben Ray	Peters (CA)	Stockman
(NM)	Peters (MI)	Swalwell (CA)
Lynch	Peterson	Takano
Maffei	Pingree (ME)	Thompson (CA)
Maloney,	Pocan	Thompson (MS)
Carolyn	Polis	Tierney
Maloney, Sean	Price (NC)	Titus
Matheson	Quigley	Tonko
Matsui	Rahall	Tsongas
McCarthy (NY)	Richmond	Van Hollen
McCollum	Rooney	Vargas
McDermott	Roybal-Allard	Veasey
McGovern	Ruiz	Vela
McIntyre	Ruppersberger	Velázquez
McNerney	Rush	Visclosky
Meeks	Sánchez, Linda	Walz
Meng	T.	Wasserman
Michaud	Sanchez, Loretta	Schultz
Miller, George	Sarbanes	Waters
Moore	Schakowsky	Welch
Moran	Schiff	Wilson (FL)
Murphy (FL)	Schneider	Yarmuth
Nadler	Schrader	

NAYS—220

Aderholt	Fortenberry	McAllister
Amash	Fox	McCarthy (CA)
Amodei	Franks (AZ)	McCaul
Bachmann	Frelinghuysen	McClintock
Bachus	Gardner	McKeon
Barletta	Garrett	McKinley
Barr	Gerlach	McMorris
Barton	Gibbs	Rodgers
Benishek	Gingrey (GA)	Meadows
Bentivoglio	Gohmert	Meehan
Bilirakis	Gosar	Messer
Bishop (UT)	Gowdy	Mica
Black	Granger	Miller (FL)
Blackburn	Graves (GA)	Miller (MI)
Boustany	Graves (MO)	Mullin
Brady (TX)	Griffin (AR)	Murphy (PA)
Bridenstine	Griffith (VA)	Neugebauer
Brooks (AL)	Grimm	Noem
Brooks (IN)	Guthrie	Nugent
Broun (GA)	Hall	Nunes
Buchanan	Harper	Olson
Bucshon	Harris	Palazzo
Burgess	Hartzer	Paulsen
Byrne	Hastings (WA)	Pearce
Calvert	Heck (NV)	Perry
Camp	Hensarling	Petri
Campbell	Herrera Beutler	Pittenger
Cantor	Holding	Pitts
Capito	Hudson	Pompeo
Carter	Huelskamp	Posey
Cassidy	Huizenga (MI)	Price (GA)
Chabot	Hultgren	Reed
Chaffetz	Hunter	Reichert
Coble	Crowley	Renacci
Coffman	Issa	Ribble
Cole	Jenkins	Rice (SC)
Collins (GA)	Johnson (OH)	Rigell
Collins (NY)	Johnson, Sam	Roby
Conaway	Jolly	Roe (TN)
Cook	Jones	Rogers (AL)
Cotton	Jordan	Rogers (KY)
Cramer	Joyce	Rogers (MI)
Crenshaw	Kelly (PA)	Rohrabacher
Culberson	King (IA)	Rokita
Daines	King (NY)	Ros-Lehtinen
Davis, Rodney	Kingston	Roskam
Denham	Kinzinger (IL)	Ross
Dent	Kline	Rothfus
DeSantis	Labrador	Royce
DesJarlais	LaMalfa	Runyan
Diaz-Balart	Lamborn	Ryan (WI)
Duffy	Lance	Salmon
Duncan (SC)	Latham	Sanford
Duncan (TN)	Latta	Scalise
Elmiers	LoBiondo	Schock
Farenthold	Long	Schweikert
Fincher	Lucas	Scott, Austin
Fitzpatrick	Luetkemeyer	Sensenbrenner
Fleischmann	Lummis	Sessions
Fleming	Marchant	Shimkus
Flores	Marino	Shuster
Forbes	Massie	Simpson

Smith (MO)	Tipton	Whitfield
Smith (NE)	Turner	Williams
Smith (NJ)	Upton	Wilson (SC)
Smith (TX)	Valadao	Wittman
Southerland	Wagner	Wolf
Stewart	Walberg	Womack
Stivers	Walden	Woodall
Stutzman	Walorski	Yoder
Terry	Weber (TX)	Yoho
Thompson (PA)	Webster (FL)	Young (AK)
Thornberry	Wenstrup	Young (IN)
Tiberi	Westmoreland	

NOT VOTING—13

Crawford	McHenry	Rangel
Goodlatte	Miller, Gary	Ryan (OH)
Hanna	Mulvaney	Waxman
Kelly (IL)	Nunnelee	
Lankford	Poe (TX)	

□ 1441

Messrs. LUCAS, JORDAN, BUCSHON, LATTA, UPTON, LAMALFA, TERRY, POSEY, SIMPSON, SESSIONS, ROSKAM, and FLEMING changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California and Mrs. BEATTY changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to instruct was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, I was absent and missed roll-call votes Nos. 315 and 316. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall 315—“yea,” rollcall 316—“nay.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER of Florida). Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees on H.R. 3230:

For consideration of the House amendment and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. MILLER of Florida, LAMBORN, ROE of Tennessee, FLORES, BENISHEK, COFFMAN, WENSTRUP, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. WALZ.

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. 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 materials on H.R. 4870, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 628 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4870.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from New York (Mr. COLLINS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.