

S. 1568

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

**SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED.**

Section 2(a) of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19) is amended—

- (1) by striking “in fiscal year 2015,”; and
- (2) by striking “\$900,000,000” and inserting “\$1,050,000,000”.

**SEC. 2. LIMITED, ONE-TIME AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER SPECIFIC AMOUNTS TO CARRY OUT MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT IN DENVER, COLORADO.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the unobligated balances of amounts available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2015, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may transfer amounts from the appropriations accounts under the following headings, in the amounts and from the activities specified, to the appropriations account under the heading “Construction, Major Projects”:

- (1) “Medical Services”, \$6,494,000 to be derived from amounts available for the Human Capital Investment Plan.
- (2) “Medical Support and Compliance”, \$1,611,000 to be derived from amounts available for the Human Capital Investment Plan.
- (3) “Medical Facilities”, \$80,735,000 to be derived from amounts available for green energy projects of the Department.
- (4) “National Cemetery Administration”, \$60,000 to be derived from amounts available for the Human Capital Investment Plan.
- (5) “General Administration”, \$1,130,000 to be derived from amounts available for the Office of the Secretary.
- (6) “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, \$670,000 to be derived from amounts available for the Human Capital Investment Plan.
- (7) “Information Technology Systems”, \$240,000 to be derived from amounts available for the Human Capital Investment Plan.
- (8) “Construction, Minor Projects”, \$3,000,000 to be derived from amounts available for minor construction projects at the staff offices of the Department.

(b) TRANSFER OF AMOUNTS AVAILABLE IN FUNDS.—

- (1) REVOLVING SUPPLY FUND.—Of the unobligated balances of amounts available in the revolving supply fund of the Department under section 8121 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary may transfer \$20,030,000 to the appropriations account under the heading “Construction, Major Projects”.
- (2) FRANCHISE FUND.—Of the unobligated balances of amounts available in the Department of Veterans Affairs Franchise Fund established in title I of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-204; 31 U.S.C. 501 note), the Secretary may transfer \$36,030,000 to the appropriations account under the heading “Construction, Major Projects”.

(c) USE OF AMOUNTS AND AVAILABILITY.—The amounts transferred under subsections (a) and (b) shall—

- (1) be used only to carry out the major medical facility construction project in Denver, Colorado, specified in section 2 of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19); and
- (2) remain available until September 30, 2016.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time,

and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**TRADE**

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today on behalf of the Michigan 14th District, which includes the great city of Detroit, to make clear my strong opposition to TPP and TAA.

As a native of Detroit and a longtime public servant, I have seen firsthand the devastating impact of global trade agreements like NAFTA. I will always fight for our businesses and manufacturing so that they can remain competitive globally, but never at the expense of hard-working Americans.

The TAA is underfunded by \$125 million. The TAA also excluded public sector workers, which is unacceptable. Passage of TPP and TAA will only increase the risk of loss of American jobs.

I greatly appreciate the help the TAA provides to workers who have lost their jobs in trade in Michigan and the livelihoods of nearly 500,000. This is why I want to be on the record why my vote was a “no.”

I will never accept cuts to these training programs. I will never agree to leave any hard-working Americans uncovered.

□ 1430

**TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY**

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, trade promotion authority has passed the House on a pretty good bipartisan basis here. This will give the United States the tools it needs to send a message around the world that we are going to be competitive and we are going to be serious about trade.

It also gives the Congress very important tools to adhere to the principles that we in this House believe are important to hold the USTR and the White House accountable with all of our principles together for what is good for the country.

When we have huge tariffs on some of the products we try and export around the world, it makes it noncompetitive. This will send, again, a very strong signal the U.S. is ready to compete; it is not going to be pushed around on trade, and TPA will be a good tool to do that.

However, it is not TPP, which we haven't had much input on lately, and is very difficult to get at. People need to understand, there is a strong difference between TPA, that authorization, and TPP, which is still not finished, still not negotiated, and is something that is a complete separate question from TPA, which I think was a responsible measure we got done here today.

We need to clear up the misconceptions on what is happening and the good measures we in this House did today in order to have America and more jobs be able to come home and stay in the U.S. because of better trade policy.

**800TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAGNA CARTA**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 15, we will celebrate the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, a document that revolutionized the world and is the foundation for the freedoms that so many take for granted today.

It is impossible to overstate the significance of that day at Runnymede in 1215 when King John of England declared that everyone, including the King, was subject to the rule of law; and as a result, constitutional government was born.

Magna Carta is Latin for “great charter,” and it was so named because of the document's protracted length. Only later, did the world realize how visionary the name truly is.

Most of the 63 clauses granted by King John dealt with specific grievances of a group of barons relating to his rule, but that framework for the relationship between the King and his subjects initiated the concept of freedom under law.

Clause 1 states:

First, that we have granted to God, and by his present charter have confirmed for us and our heirs in perpetuity, that the English Church shall be free, and shall have its rights undiminished, and its liberties unimpaired. That we wish this so to be observed, appears from the fact that of our own free will, before the outbreak of the present dispute between us and our barons, we granted and confirmed by charter the freedom of the Church's elections—a right reckoned to be of the greatest necessity and importance to it—and caused this to be confirmed by Pope Innocent III. This freedom we shall observe ourselves, and desire to be observed in good faith by our heirs in perpetuity.

To all free men of our kingdom we have also granted, for us and our heirs forever, all the liberties written out below, to have and to keep for them and their heirs, of us and our heirs.

Clause 12 reads:

No scutage or aid will be levied in our kingdom without its general consent.

Clause 13 says:

The city of London shall enjoy all its ancient liberties and free customs, both by land and by water. We also will and grant that all other cities, boroughs, towns, and ports shall enjoy all their liberties and free customs.

Clause 38 reads:

In future no official shall place a man on trial upon his own unsupported statement, without producing credible witnesses to the truth of it.

Finally, clause 39 states:

No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or

outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land.

Let me repeat those last few words, Mr. Speaker, "the law of the land." In those words, we see the idea that the law does not come from any individual person or government. To quote Daniel Hannan, who wrote a wonderful essay on the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta for *The Wall Street Journal* last month: "It is immanent in the land itself, the common inheritance of the people living there."

Mr. Speaker, the language may sound a little stilted, and folks may think, goodness, that doesn't sound like something we would say today, but it is so important for us to understand the direct link between Magna Carta and the Revolution that occurred in this country in 1776.

Although Magna Carta failed to resolve the conflict between King John and his barons, it was reissued several times after his death. Again, Magna Carta's legacy is particularly evident in the documents that form the basis of our government, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

At the National Archives, visitors to Washington have the opportunity to view one of four surviving originals of the 1297 Magna Carta alongside the remarkable documents it inspired. When visitors come here to the House, I often point out to them on the walls the profiles of the ancient lawgivers. Pope Innocent III is one of those ancient lawgivers shown here in the House.

Again, we can see directly, in many cases, how our Constitution and our Bill of Rights are derived from Magna Carta and also from the Bible, that we can see those direct connections.

Today, I would like to acknowledge the debt of gratitude we owe to those rebel barons with grievances against their King, and I am reminded that we must always be attentive to the freedom we have inherited.

Ronald Reagan said famously:

Freedom is not in our genes. It is only a generation away from being lost. It is something we have to cherish.

Also, Mr. Speaker, with freedom comes opportunity and responsibility, and I want to say how grateful I am for the opportunity I have had to serve in the House of Representatives along with my colleagues.

I often tell, particularly school-children, when I talk to them about this country and the radical idea that it represents, that I am a person who grew up in a house with no electricity and no running water, extraordinarily poor, and with parents with no privilege, no exalted status in our country.

As I said, with the freedom that we have comes opportunity. We on our side of the aisle—and I know many of my colleagues, or most of my colleagues, on the other side of the aisle—want to see that opportunity that has been made available to those of us who

currently serve, many of whom come from no privilege, to be able to hold onto that opportunity.

To do that, Mr. Speaker, we have to hold on to freedom. We are the freest country in the world, and that, the rule of law, and our capitalistic system are those things that make us such a great country.

I want to express again my appreciation to those rebel barons and to all the people who came after them who kept the idea of Magna Carta alive to the time when we could develop our Constitution and Bill of Rights and to the present time when we fight so hard to maintain those principles.

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

#### CONGRATULATING ROBERTA GIANFORTONI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, today, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate Roberta Gianfortoni, assistant dean for professional education at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, as she retires after 26 years of service.

Assistant Dean Gianfortoni has been an inspirational leader and adviser in the School of Public Health for more than 4,000 graduates, including myself. Her guidance and mentorship during my time at Harvard opened my eyes to new issues and innovative solutions, inspiring me to think outside the box to address our public health challenges.

The students she mentored have gone on to become doctors, professors, national and international leaders, and advocates all working to improve public health conditions right here at home and across the globe. Her contributions to our Nation's public health will last for generations.

I cherish my time and the lessons I learned from Assistant Dean Gianfortoni. After 26 years of service, I congratulate her on her retirement.

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

□ 1445

#### THE POWER OF TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it seems so often in this body we tend not to learn from mistakes. We passed a bill—I guess part of a bill—that the Senate sent, referred to as the TPA, but it is all about a trade agreement that will provide a structure in which the President can negotiate and dock

other agreements into it. Since the TAA did not pass, then it can't, apparently, go directly to conference unless we pass an amendment to allow it to go to conference or find some other way to effectuate a conference on agreement. Mr. Speaker, I can only surmise that, since the Speaker, himself, moved to reconsider, then there is something afoot in order to keep it from dying, as it should have, since both the TPA and the TAA did not pass.

The TPA, I read it. It has got some good aspects to it, but it is not, in and of itself, free trade. As a judge in a district court—our highest level trial court in Texas—so many times, I would be the fact finder without a jury. So often, you would sit and listen to the evidence, and you would wonder why someone would take the action he did. There has got to be some motivating factor. You consider all of the possibilities.

We had a very rare visit from President Obama to the Capitol, trying to push people to vote for the TPA—this trade agreement—and the TAA. It was great to see him come out to the Congressional Baseball Game last night. It is not something he does regularly. So, Mr. Speaker, I am left to wonder. I mean, we have not seen this President push this hard on very many bills over the last 6½ years, and I am left wondering: Why would President Obama push so hard to pass this trade agreement structure that allows him to negotiate so many deals with so many different countries?

One possibility is he did it because he knew that Speaker BOEHNER was pushing to pass it, and it is possible that he really wanted to make Speaker BOEHNER and MITCH MCCONNELL, the leader down in the Senate, look good. That is a possibility. I don't think it is terribly probable. In weighing all of the evidence, it would seem to me that it is far more probable that the TPA will give this President far more power to fundamentally transform America in his remaining year and a half or so as President. That is what it appears to be to me.

Now, one of our Republicans speaking, whom I have tremendous respect and admiration for, commented that we are not a nation that sits on the sidelines. I agree that that used to be true, but we have basically sat on the sidelines as Christians and Jews are being persecuted and killed around the world in greater numbers than ever before. We have sat on the sidelines in Nigeria as precious little African girls are kidnapped and brutally, sexually assaulted day after day, month after month.

Then we see an article. According to the article, actually, this administration communicated to Nigeria that, if they will change their laws to provide for same-sex marriage and possibly for abortions to be paid for, then the United States would not continue to sit on the sidelines, that we would actually help them stop radical Islamists.