

through the VA and TRICARE. So requiring these employers to provide them with health insurance is redundant and could also have the unintended effect of discouraging employers from hiring these folks.

This part of the President's healthcare law is clearly not drafted in a thoughtful manner.

I urge my colleagues again today to vote in favor of this bill that would eliminate the unnecessary confusion and encourage businesses to hire more heroes.

Finally, I urge the Senate to pass this legislation so that it can finally get to the President's desk.

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for the purpose of closing.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. I again thank the chairman.

Thank you to Ranking Member LEVIN and all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for looking at this very important issue, this correction that needed to be made so that our veterans get the opportunities they deserve.

I would like to thank my colleague from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) for coming to the floor today to talk about how important this issue is.

I urge all of my colleagues to listen to everybody on the floor today and the bipartisan consensus to, once again, pass this commonsense piece of legislation.

I also want to thank the veterans that I have the honor to serve in Illinois. This idea came from one of them, a constituent who saw the flaw.

Now we have the chance to, once again, correct it. I hope this bill can get to the President's desk.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 61.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1545

NEED-BASED EDUCATIONAL AID ACT OF 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1482) to improve and reauthorize provisions relating to the application of the antitrust laws to the award of need-based educational aid.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1482

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION RELATING TO THE APPLICATION OF THE ANTITRUST LAWS TO THE AWARD OF NEED-BASED EDUCATIONAL AID.

Section 568 of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (15 U.S.C. 1 note) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (a)—
 - (A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or” after the semicolon;
 - (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “; or” and inserting a period at the end; and
 - (C) by striking paragraph (4); and
- (2) in subsection (d), by striking “2015” and inserting “2022”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 1482, the Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2015, continues an antitrust exemption that is set to expire on September 30, 2015. The exemption allows participating colleges and universities to collaborate on a set of criteria to determine applicants' needs for private financial aid.

To be clear, this exemption does not apply to Federal financial aid, only to aid directly provided by the participating colleges and universities.

The Antitrust Modernization Commission generally cautioned against antitrust exemptions and recommended that Congress closely examine any proposed antitrust immunities.

The antitrust exemption continued by S. 1482 has been in place since 1992. Over the past 23 years, Congress has extended the antitrust exemption on four separate occasions, each time with broad, bipartisan support.

Additionally, the Government Accountability Office conducted a study to determine whether the exemption adversely impacted the affordability of college and concluded that it did not.

While S. 1482 continues the existing antitrust exemption, it also narrows it in recognition of the fact that one of the practices allowed by that exemption has not been utilized by participating colleges and universities. Accordingly, the legislation limits the scope of antitrust exemption to those activities that colleges and universities truly need and use.

Given the lengthy legislative record, the narrowed scope of the exemption, the GAO study on the effects of the

bill, and the 7-year sunset included in the bill, I believe that S. 1482 proposes a safe extension of a reasonable and worthwhile antitrust exemption.

I thank the former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Congressman SMITH, for introducing the House version of this legislation, H.R. 2604, which the Judiciary Committee ordered favorably reported without amendment.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1482, the Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2015, would extend an exemption to the Federal antitrust laws that permits some of our Nation's most prestigious colleges and universities to agree to admit students on a need-blind basis and award financial aid to students with the most demonstrated need.

I am pleased to serve as the lead Democratic cosponsor of the House companion to this bipartisan legislation. S. 1482 allows colleges and universities that admit students on a need-blind basis to collaborate on the formula they use to determine how much families can pay for college.

This exemption was first enacted in 1992, and since then, Congress has reauthorized it four times without opposition, most recently in 2008.

In addition to allowing collaboration on a common formula for calculating an applicant's ability to pay for college, the exemption also allows academic institutions to agree to award aid only on the basis of financial need.

In other words, this exemption ensures that the most qualified students may attend some of our Nation's most prestigious schools, regardless of family income. This is especially important for low-income students, who should not be forced to choose between academic institutions on the basis of financial need or financial aid alone.

While I think we could do more to empower students through better funding of higher education, this legislation is critical to preserving a level playing field for students at these institutions through a need-blind admissions process.

The 568 Presidents' Group, a coalition of 23 prestigious colleges and universities that support need-based financial aid, strongly supports this bill.

In a letter sent to the Judiciary Committee earlier this year, the 568 Presidents' Group stated that the exemption allows institutions to maximize the allocation of financial aid to “ensure that those funds are targeted to benefit the students with the greatest financial need and to reduce or, in some cases, eliminate debt loads on graduation.”

Similarly, the presidents of Duke and Cornell have written in support of this legislation, stating that the exemption “makes a real difference for our students” and is essential to developing

the “best practices to calculate institutional aid awards.”

We should move quickly to adopt this legislation and ensure that this important exemption does not expire.

In closing, I thank my colleague Congressman LAMAR SMITH, the former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, for his steadfast leadership on this bill since the 105th Congress and during this Congress.

I also thank my Senate colleagues, Senate Judiciary Chairman LEAHY and Ranking Member GRASSLEY, for their leadership on the bill.

I encourage my colleagues to support S. 1482, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Science Committee, the former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and the chief sponsor of the House version of this legislation.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my friend from Virginia, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, BOB GOODLATTE, for yielding me time and also for bringing this bill to the House floor.

I support S. 1482, the Need-Based Educational Aid Act. As the author of the identical House bill, I am pleased that we are considering it today.

The Need-Based Educational Aid Act extends the current antitrust exemptions set to expire on September 30 for another 7 years. It allows a limited number of private universities that admit students on need-blind basis to award financial aid from the schools' own funds, based entirely on students' demonstrated financial need.

This bill authorizes these institutions of higher education to use common principles to assess students' financial need, and it allows the schools to use a common financial aid application form.

It also permits multiple schools that have accepted the same student to award the same assistance. This ensures that the student selects the college that is the best fit, rather than the school that offered the most financial aid.

This issue has long been of interest to me personally, having worked on three previous extensions. Common treatment of this narrow category of educational aid makes sense. A Government Accountability Office study previously found that there has been no abuse of the antitrust exemption and that tuition has not gone up as a result.

The Need-Based Educational Aid Act helps ensure that financial aid is available to students solely on the basis of demonstrated need. Students who otherwise qualify should not be denied the opportunity to access higher education due to limited financial means. S. 1482 protects this need-based aid and need-blind admissions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Georgia, HANK

JOHNSON, a member of the Judiciary Committee, for being the original co-author of the identical House bill and for his leadership on this particular issue.

I urge my colleagues to support the Need-Based Educational Aid Act.

Again, I thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee for bringing it to the House floor.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would, at this time, like to thank my chairman, BOB GOODLATTE, of the Judiciary Committee, for his expeditious bringing of this legislation to the committee and now to the floor.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia; the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH); the ranking member, Mr. CONYERS; and others for this very bipartisan legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1482.

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. GOODLATTE. 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.

SECRET SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1656) to provide for additional resources for the Secret Service, and to improve protections for restricted areas, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1656

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Secret Service Improvements Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF THE SECRET SERVICE.

Section 3056 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end:

“(h) The Director of the Secret Service shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Director of the Secret Service is the head of the Secret Service.”.

SEC. 3. RESTRICTED BUILDING OR GROUNDS.

Section 1752(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4), by inserting “or” at the end; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) knowingly, and with the intent to enter a restricted building or grounds, causes any object to enter any restricted building or grounds, when, or so that, such object, in fact, impedes or disrupts the orderly conduct of government business or official functions;”.

SEC. 4. THREATS AGAINST FORMER VICE PRESIDENTS.

Section 879(a)(4) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 3056(a)(6)” and inserting “paragraph (6) or (8) of section 3056(a)”.

SEC. 5. INCREASED TRAINING.

Beginning in the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Secret Service shall increase the annual number of hours spent training by officers and agents of the Secret Service, including officers of the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division established under section 3056A of title 18, United States Code and agents operating pursuant to section 3056 of title 18, United States Code, including joint training between the two.

SEC. 6. TRAINING FACILITIES.

The Director of the Secret Service is authorized to construct facilities at the Rowley Training Center necessary to improve the training of officers of the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division established under section 3056A of title 18, United States Code and agents of the United States Secret Service, operating pursuant to section 3056 of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 7. HIRING OF ADDITIONAL OFFICERS AND AGENTS.

The Director of the Secret Service is authorized to hire not fewer than—

(1) 200 additional officers for the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division established under section 3056A of title 18, United States Code; and

(2) 85 additional agents for the United States Secret Service Presidential Protective Detail, operating pursuant to section 3056 of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 8. EVALUATION OF VULNERABILITIES AND THREATS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Secret Service shall devise and adopt improved procedures for evaluating vulnerabilities in the security of the White House and threats to persons protected by the Secret Service, including threats posed by unmanned aerial systems or explosive devices.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Secret Service shall report on the implementation of subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

(2) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(4) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(5) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 9. EVALUATION OF USE OF TECHNOLOGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Secret Service, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, and other experts, shall devise and adopt improved procedures for—

(1) evaluating the ways in which technology may be used to improve the security of the White House and the response to threats to persons protected by the Secret Service; and