

home communities, right where they live.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies, I will continue to devote time and attention to pinpointing the VA's future funding needs and maintaining vigilant oversight of their appropriated taxpayer dollars.

The VA must develop systems that give us accurate and on-time information and engage with Congress in a transparent and timely manner. We cannot and should not continue to lurch from one VA funding crisis to another.

□ 1615

What we have seen is terrible management and a terrible disservice to our veterans by the VA in many of these cases; we need to fix it. I believe the Secretary is a good and honorable man trying to do his best, but the taxpayers deserve better, and our veterans most assuredly do.

I urge passage of this bill. I thank the chairman and the leadership of the committee.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN), the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Let me just be clear. I am just amazed that, on the last day of the session, we are spending the entire afternoon discussing H.R. 1994—a bill that the Senate will not pick up; and if, by some miracle, it passed, the President would veto it—when there are so many other things that we could be discussing.

How about addressing H.R. 3266, which will give the Secretary the authority to run the VA like a business, which is what we keep saying?

I support the substitute amendment. The accountability substitute is offered today because it brings real accountability to the VA while maintaining constitutionality due process protection for civil service employees.

At the Committee on Veterans' Affairs over the past 2 years, we have learned of widespread mismanagement and—let me emphasize—lack of training at the VA. The problems that the VA has have gone back for many years, over 30. Maybe if we had adequately funded VA, they would have fewer problems.

The majority has introduced H.R. 1994, which attempts to increase accountability by allowing VA to immediately fire any employee for misconduct with only limited due process. The substitute increases accountability by allowing VA to immediately suspend, without pay, any employee whose misconduct posed a direct threat to veterans' health and safety.

Unlike H.R. 1994, the substitute provides sufficient due process rights to meet constitutional requirements by providing an accused employee with a fair chance to tell their side of the story.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this substitute and vote against H.R. 1994.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. May I inquire how much time is remaining on my side?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida has 1 minute remaining. The gentleman from California has 1 minute remaining.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for my amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Mr. Chairman, I respectfully yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Chairman, what this amendment does is basically gut H.R. 1994, which is an accountability bill that provides the Secretary with a desperately needed tool in order to hold people accountable within the Department.

I would like to read for the RECORD the 11 veterans service organizations that support the removal authority: American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, Student Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Military Officers Association of America, Reserve Officers Association, Concerned Veterans for America, and AMVETS.

I remind Members that VA has only successfully removed three VA employees for reasons related to the wait time manipulation in the VA scandal that was brought to everybody's attention back in April.

Here are those that oppose the accountability bill: the American Federation of Government Employees and the National Treasury Employees Union.

So, again, on opposition are the unions; on support are the veterans service organizations.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) having assumed the chair, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1994) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or de-

motion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND VETERANS HEALTH CARE CHOICE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 3236.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 388, I call up the bill (H.R. 3236) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, to provide resource flexibility to the Department of Veterans Affairs for health care services, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill contains an emergency designation pursuant to section 4(g)(1) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010. Accordingly, the Chair must put the question of consideration under section 4(g)(2) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

The question is, Will the House now consider the bill?

The question of consideration was decided in the affirmative.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 388, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3236

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015”.

(b) RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of Transportation shall reduce the amount apportioned or allocated for a program, project, or activity under this Act in fiscal year 2015 by amounts apportioned or allocated pursuant to the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 and the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2015, including the amendments made by such Acts, for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; reconciliation of funds; table of contents.

### TITLE I—SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM EXTENSION

#### Subtitle A—Federal-Aid Highways

Sec. 1001. Extension of Federal-aid highway programs.

Sec. 1002. Administrative expenses.

Subtitle B—Extension of Highway Safety Programs

Sec. 1101. Extension of National Highway Traffic Safety Administration highway safety programs.

Sec. 1102. Extension of Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration programs.

Sec. 1103. Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act.

Subtitle C—Public Transportation Programs

Sec. 1201. Formula grants for rural areas.

Sec. 1202. Apportionment of appropriations for formula grants.

Sec. 1203. Authorizations for public transportation.

Sec. 1204. Bus and bus facilities formula grants.

Subtitle D—Hazardous Materials

Sec. 1301. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—REVENUE PROVISIONS

Sec. 2001. Extension of Highway Trust Fund expenditure authority.

Sec. 2002. Funding of Highway Trust Fund.

Sec. 2003. Modification of mortgage reporting requirements.

Sec. 2004. Consistent basis reporting between estate and person acquiring property from decedent.

Sec. 2005. Clarification of 6-year statute of limitations in case of overstatement of basis.

Sec. 2006. Tax return due dates.

Sec. 2007. Transfers of excess pension assets to retiree health accounts.

Sec. 2008. Equalization of Highway Trust Fund excise taxes on liquefied natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, and compressed natural gas.

TITLE III—ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 3001. Service fees.

TITLE IV—VETERANS PROVISIONS

Sec. 4001. Short title.

Sec. 4002. Plan to consolidate programs of Department of Veterans Affairs to improve access to care.

Sec. 4003. Funding account for non-Department care.

Sec. 4004. Temporary authorization of use of Veterans Choice Funds for certain programs.

Sec. 4005. Modifications of Veterans Choice Program.

Sec. 4006. Limitation on dialysis pilot program.

Sec. 4007. Amendments to Internal Revenue Code with respect to health coverage of veterans.

Sec. 4008. Emergency designations.

TITLE I—SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM EXTENSION

Subtitle A—Federal-Aid Highways

SEC. 1001. EXTENSION OF FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1001(a) of the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1840) is amended by striking “July 31, 2015” and inserting “October 29, 2015”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.—Section 1001(b)(1) of the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1840) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.—Except as provided in section 1002, there is authorized to be appropriated out of the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account)—

“(A) for fiscal year 2015, a sum equal to the total amount authorized to be appropriated out of the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) for programs,

projects, and activities for fiscal year 2014 under divisions A and E of MAP-21 (Public Law 112-141) and title 23, United States Code (excluding chapter 4 of that title); and

“(B) for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015, <sup>29/366</sup> of the total amount authorized to be appropriated out of the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) for programs, projects, and activities for fiscal year 2015 under divisions A and E of MAP-21 (Public Law 112-141) and title 23, United States Code (excluding chapter 4 of that title).”.

(2) GENERAL FUND.—Section 1123(h)(1) of MAP-21 (23 U.S.C. 202 note) is amended by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and \$24,986,301 out of the general fund of the Treasury to carry out the program for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and \$2,377,049 out of the general fund of the Treasury to carry out the program for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015”.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1001(c)(1) of the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1840) is amended by striking “(1) IN GENERAL.—” and all that follows through “to carry out programs” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise expressly provided in this subtitle, funds authorized to be appropriated under subsection (b)(1)—

“(A) for fiscal year 2015 shall be distributed, administered, limited, and made available for obligation in the same manner and at the same levels as the amounts of funds authorized to be appropriated out of the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) for fiscal year 2014; and

“(B) for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015, shall be distributed, administered, limited, and made available for obligation in the same manner and at the same levels as <sup>29/366</sup> of the amounts of funds authorized to be appropriated out of the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) for fiscal year 2015, to carry out programs”.

(2) OBLIGATION CEILING.—Section 1102 of MAP-21 (23 U.S.C. 104 note) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (2); and

(ii) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) \$40,256,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

“(4) \$3,189,683,060 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”;

(B) in subsection (b)(12)—

(i) by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2014” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015”; and

(ii) by striking “, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015, only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000, less any reductions that would have otherwise been required for that year by section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a), then multiplied by <sup>304/365</sup> for that period” and inserting “, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015, only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000, less any reductions that would have otherwise been required for that year by section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a), then multiplied by <sup>29/366</sup> for that period”;

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 through

2014 and for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015, that is equal to <sup>304/365</sup> of such unobligated balance” and inserting “for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015, that is equal to <sup>29/366</sup> of such unobligated balance”;

(D) in subsection (d) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”; and

(E) in subsection (f)(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2014 and for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015”.

SEC. 1002. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

Section 1002 of the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1842) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking “for administrative expenses of the Federal-aid highway program \$366,465,753 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015.” and inserting “for administrative expenses of the Federal-aid highway program—

“(1) \$440,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

“(2) \$34,863,388 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”; and

(2) by striking subsection (b)(2) and inserting the following:

“(2) for fiscal year 2015 and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015, subject to the limitations on administrative expenses under the heading ‘Federal Highway Administration’ in appropriations Acts that apply, respectively, to that fiscal year and period.”.

Subtitle B—Extension of Highway Safety Programs

SEC. 1101. EXTENSION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS.—

(1) HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS.—Section 31101(a)(1) of MAP-21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (B); and

(B) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) \$235,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

“(D) \$18,620,219 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”.

(2) HIGHWAY SAFETY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Section 31101(a)(2) of MAP-21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (B); and

(B) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) \$113,500,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

“(D) \$8,993,169 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”.

(3) NATIONAL PRIORITY SAFETY PROGRAMS.—Section 31101(a)(3) of MAP-21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (B); and

(B) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) \$272,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

“(D) \$21,551,913 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”.

(4) NATIONAL DRIVER REGISTER.—Section 31101(a)(4) of MAP-21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (B); and

(B) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

“(D) \$396,175 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

(5) HIGH VISIBILITY ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM.—

(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 31101(a)(5) of MAP-21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended—

(i) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (B); and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) \$29,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

“(D) \$2,297,814 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

(B) LAW ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGNS.—Section 2009(a) of SAFETEA-LU (23 U.S.C. 402 note) is amended—

(i) in the first sentence by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and in the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and in the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015”; and

(ii) in the second sentence by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and in the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and in the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

(6) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Section 31101(a)(6) of MAP-21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (B); and

(B) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) \$25,500,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

“(D) \$2,020,492 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

(b) COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—Section 403(f)(1) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking “each fiscal year ending before October 1, 2014, and \$2,082,192 of the total amount available for apportionment to the States for highway safety programs under section 402(c) in the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “each fiscal year ending before October 1, 2015, and \$198,087 of the total amount available for apportionment to the States for highway safety programs under section 402(c) in the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

(c) APPLICABILITY OF TITLE 23.—Section 31101(c) of MAP-21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

#### SEC. 1102. EXTENSION OF FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS.

(a) MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY GRANTS.—Section 31104(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (9); and

(2) by striking paragraph (10) and inserting the following:

“(10) \$218,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

“(11) \$17,273,224 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Section 31104(i)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (I); and

(2) by striking subparagraph (J) and inserting the following:

“(J) \$259,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

“(K) \$20,521,858 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

(c) GRANT PROGRAMS.—

(1) COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.—Section 4101(c)(1) of SAFETEA-LU (119 Stat. 1715) is amended by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and \$24,986,301 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and \$2,377,049 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

(2) BORDER ENFORCEMENT GRANTS.—Section 4101(c)(2) of SAFETEA-LU (119 Stat. 1715) is amended by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and \$26,652,055 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and \$2,535,519 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

(3) PERFORMANCE AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4101(c)(3) of SAFETEA-LU (119 Stat. 1715) is amended by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and \$4,164,384 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and \$396,175 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

(4) COMMERCIAL VEHICLE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM.—Section 4101(c)(4) of SAFETEA-LU (119 Stat. 1715) is amended by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and \$20,821,918 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and \$1,980,874 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

(5) SAFETY DATA IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.—Section 4101(c)(5) of SAFETEA-LU (119 Stat. 1715) is amended by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and \$2,498,630 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and \$237,705 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

(d) HIGH-PRIORITY ACTIVITIES.—Section 31104(k)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “each of fiscal years 2006 through 2014 and up to \$12,493,151 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2006 through 2015 and up to \$1,188,525 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

(e) NEW ENTRANT AUDITS.—Section 31144(g)(5)(B) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “per fiscal year and up to \$26,652,055 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “per fiscal year and up to \$2,535,519 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

(f) OUTREACH AND EDUCATION.—Section 4127(e) of SAFETEA-LU (119 Stat. 1741) is amended by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and \$3,331,507 to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and \$316,940 to

the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

(g) GRANT PROGRAM FOR COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS.—Section 4134(c) of SAFETEA-LU (49 U.S.C. 31301 note) is amended by striking “each of fiscal years 2005 through 2014 and \$832,877 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2005 through 2015 and \$79,235 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

#### SEC. 1103. DINGELL-JOHNSON SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT.

Section 4 of the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “each fiscal year through 2014 and for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015” and inserting “each fiscal year through 2015 and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(A) by striking “for each fiscal year ending before October 1, 2014, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “for each fiscal year ending before October 1, 2015, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

#### Subtitle C—Public Transportation Programs

##### SEC. 1201. FORMULA GRANTS FOR RURAL AREAS.

Section 5311(c)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A) by striking “for each fiscal year ending before October 1, 2014, and \$4,164,384 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “for each fiscal year ending before October 1, 2015, and \$396,175 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B) by striking “for each fiscal year ending before October 1, 2014, and \$20,821,918 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “for each fiscal year ending before October 1, 2015, and \$1,980,874 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

##### SEC. 1202. APPORTIONMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FORMULA GRANTS.

Section 5336(h)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “for each fiscal year ending before October 1, 2014, and \$24,986,301 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “for each fiscal year ending before October 1, 2015, and \$2,377,049 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”

##### SEC. 1203. AUTHORIZATIONS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

(a) FORMULA GRANTS.—Section 5338(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking “and \$7,158,575,342 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015” and inserting “\$8,595,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, and \$681,024,590 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and \$107,274,521 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “\$128,800,000 for fiscal 2015, and \$10,205,464 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking “for each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and \$8,328,767 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2013 through

2015 and \$792,350 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”;

(C) in subparagraph (C) by striking “and \$3,713,505,753 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “\$4,458,650,000 for fiscal year 2015, and \$353,281,011 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”;

(D) in subparagraph (D) by striking “and \$215,132,055 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “\$258,300,000 for fiscal year 2015, and \$20,466,393 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”;

(E) in subparagraph (E)—

(i) by striking “and \$506,222,466 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “\$607,800,000 for fiscal year 2015, and \$48,159,016 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”;

(ii) by striking “and \$24,986,301 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “\$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, and \$2,377,049 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”;

(iii) by striking “and \$16,657,534 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “\$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, and \$1,584,699 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”;

(F) in subparagraph (F) by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and \$2,498,630 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and \$237,705 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”;

(G) in subparagraph (G) by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and \$4,164,384 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and \$396,175 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”;

(H) in subparagraph (H) by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and \$3,206,575 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and \$305,055 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”;

(I) in subparagraph (I) by striking “and \$1,803,927,671 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “\$2,165,900,000 for fiscal year 2015, and \$171,615,027 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”;

(J) in subparagraph (J) by striking “and \$356,304,658 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “\$427,800,000 for fiscal year 2015, and \$33,896,721 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”;

(K) in subparagraph (K) by striking “and \$438,009,863 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “\$525,900,000 for fiscal year 2015, and \$41,669,672 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”;

(b) RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT DEMONSTRATION AND DEPLOYMENT PROJECTS.—Section 5338(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “and \$58,301,370 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015” and inserting “\$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, and \$5,546,448 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015”.

(c) TRANSIT COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Section 5338(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “and \$5,830,137 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015” and inserting “\$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, and \$554,645 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015”.

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT.—Section 5338(d) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “and \$5,830,137 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015” and inserting “\$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, and \$554,645 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015”.

(e) HUMAN RESOURCES AND TRAINING.—Section 5338(e) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “and \$4,164,384 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015” and inserting “\$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, and \$396,175 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015”.

(f) CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS.—Section 5338(f) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “and \$1,558,295,890 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015” and inserting “\$1,907,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, and \$151,101,093 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015”.

(g) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 5338(h) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking “and \$86,619,178 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015” and inserting “\$104,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, and \$8,240,437 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015”;

(2) in paragraph (2) by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and not less than \$4,164,384 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and not less than \$396,175 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”;

(3) in paragraph (3) by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and not less than \$832,877 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and not less than \$79,235 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”.

#### SEC. 1204. BUS AND BUS FACILITIES FORMULA GRANTS.

Section 5339(d)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and \$54,553,425 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and \$5,189,891 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”;

(2) by striking “\$1,041,096 for such period” and inserting “\$99,044 for such period”;

(3) by striking “\$416,438 for such period” and inserting “\$39,617 for such period”.

#### Subtitle D—Hazardous Materials

#### SEC. 1301. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5128(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (2); and

(2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) \$42,762,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

“(4) \$3,388,246 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”.

(b) HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND.—Section 5128(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the paragraph heading by striking “FISCAL YEARS 2013 AND 2014” and inserting “FISCAL YEARS 2013 THROUGH 2015”; and

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “fiscal years 2013 and 2014” and inserting “fiscal years 2013 through 2015”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) FISCAL YEAR 2016.—From the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Fund established under section 5116(i), the Secretary may expend for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015—

“(A) \$14,896 to carry out section 5115;

“(B) \$1,727,322 to carry out subsections (a) and (b) of section 5116, of which not less than \$1,081,557 shall be available to carry out section 5116(b);

“(C) \$11,885 to carry out section 5116(f);

“(D) \$49,522 to publish and distribute the Emergency Response Guidebook under section 5116(i)(3); and

“(E) \$79,235 to carry out section 5116(j).”.

(c) HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRAINING GRANTS.—Section 5128(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “each of the fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and \$3,331,507 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on July 31, 2015,” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and \$316,940 for the period beginning on October 1, 2015, and ending on October 29, 2015.”.

#### TITLE II—REVENUE PROVISIONS

#### SEC. 2001. EXTENSION OF HIGHWAY TRUST FUND EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY.

(a) HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.—Section 9503 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “August 1, 2015” in subsections (b)(6)(B), (c)(1), and (e)(3) and inserting “October 30, 2015”; and

(2) by striking “Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2015” in subsections (c)(1) and (e)(3) and inserting “Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015”.

(b) SPORT FISH RESTORATION AND BOATING TRUST FUND.—Section 9504 of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking “Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2015” each place it appears in subsection (b)(2) and inserting “Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015”; and

(2) by striking “August 1, 2015” in subsection (d)(2) and inserting “October 30, 2015”.

(c) LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND.—Section 9508(e)(2) of such Code is amended by striking “August 1, 2015” and inserting “October 30, 2015”.

#### SEC. 2002. FUNDING OF HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.

Section 9503(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8) and by inserting after paragraph (6) the following new paragraph:

“(7) ADDITIONAL SUMS.—Out of money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is hereby appropriated—

“(A) \$6,068,000,000 to the Highway Account (as defined in subsection (e)(5)(B)) in the Highway Trust Fund; and

“(B) \$2,000,000,000 to the Mass Transit Account in the Highway Trust Fund.”.

#### SEC. 2003. MODIFICATION OF MORTGAGE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) INFORMATION RETURN REQUIREMENTS.—Section 6050H(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (C), by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (G) and by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraphs:

“(D) the amount of outstanding principal on the mortgage as of the beginning of such calendar year,

“(E) the date of the origination of the mortgage,

“(F) the address (or other description in the case of property without an address) of the property which secures the mortgage, and”.

(b) STATEMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS.—Section 6050H(d)(2) of such Code is amended by striking “subsection (b)(2)(C)” and inserting “subparagraphs (C), (D), (E), and (F) of subsection (b)(2)”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to returns required to be made, and statements required to be furnished, after December 31, 2016.

**SEC. 2004. CONSISTENT BASIS REPORTING BETWEEN ESTATE AND PERSON ACQUIRING PROPERTY FROM DECEDENT.**

(a) PROPERTY ACQUIRED FROM A DECEDENT.—Section 1014 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) BASIS MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH ESTATE TAX RETURN.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The basis of any property to which subsection (a) applies shall not exceed—

“(A) in the case of property the final value of which has been determined for purposes of the tax imposed by chapter 11 on the estate of such decedent, such value, and

“(B) in the case of property not described in subparagraph (A) and with respect to which a statement has been furnished under section 6035(a) identifying the value of such property, such value.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall only apply to any property whose inclusion in the decedent's estate increased the liability for the tax imposed by chapter 11 (reduced by credits allowable against such tax) on such estate.

“(3) DETERMINATION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the basis of property has been determined for purposes of the tax imposed by chapter 11 if—

“(A) the value of such property is shown on a return under section 6018 and such value is not contested by the Secretary before the expiration of the time for assessing a tax under chapter 11,

“(B) in a case not described in subparagraph (A), the value is specified by the Secretary and such value is not timely contested by the executor of the estate, or

“(C) the value is determined by a court or pursuant to a settlement agreement with the Secretary.

“(4) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may by regulations provide exceptions to the application of this subsection.”.

(b) INFORMATION REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subpart A of part III of subchapter A of chapter 61 of such Code is amended by inserting after section 6034A the following new section:

**“SEC. 6035. BASIS INFORMATION TO PERSONS ACQUIRING PROPERTY FROM DECEDENT.**

“(a) INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO PROPERTY ACQUIRED FROM DECEDENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The executor of any estate required to file a return under section 6018(a) shall furnish to the Secretary and to each person acquiring any interest in property included in the decedent's gross estate for Federal estate tax purposes a statement identifying the value of each interest in such property as reported on such return and such other information with respect to such interest as the Secretary may prescribe.

“(2) STATEMENTS BY BENEFICIARIES.—Each person required to file a return under section 6018(b) shall furnish to the Secretary and to each other person who holds a legal or bene-

ficial interest in the property to which such return relates a statement identifying the information described in paragraph (1).

“(3) TIME FOR FURNISHING STATEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each statement required to be furnished under paragraph (1) or (2) shall be furnished at such time as the Secretary may prescribe, but in no case at a time later than the earlier of—

“(i) the date which is 30 days after the date on which the return under section 6018 was required to be filed (including extensions, if any), or

“(ii) the date which is 30 days after the date such return is filed.

“(B) ADJUSTMENTS.—In any case in which there is an adjustment to the information required to be included on a statement filed under paragraph (1) or (2) after such statement has been filed, a supplemental statement under such paragraph shall be filed not later than the date which is 30 days after such adjustment is made.

“(b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as necessary to carry out this section, including regulations relating to—

“(1) the application of this section to property with regard to which no estate tax return is required to be filed, and

“(2) situations in which the surviving joint tenant or other recipient may have better information than the executor regarding the basis or fair market value of the property.”.

(2) PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO FILE.—

(A) RETURN.—Section 6724(d)(1) of such Code is amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting “, and”, and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) any statement required to be filed with the Secretary under section 6035.”.

(B) STATEMENT.—Section 6724(d)(2) of such Code is amended by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (GG), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (HH) and inserting “, or”, and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(II) section 6035 (other than a statement described in paragraph (1)(D)).”.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart A of part III of subchapter A of chapter 61 of such Code is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 6034A the following new item:

“Sec. 6035. Basis information to persons acquiring property from decedent.”.

(c) PENALTY FOR INCONSISTENT REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6662(b) of such Code is amended by inserting after paragraph (7) the following new paragraph:

“(8) Any inconsistent estate basis.”.

(2) INCONSISTENT BASIS REPORTING.—Section 6662 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(k) INCONSISTENT ESTATE BASIS REPORTING.—For purposes of this section, there is an ‘inconsistent estate basis’ if the basis of property claimed on a return exceeds the basis as determined under section 1014(f).”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property with respect to which an estate tax return is filed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 2005. CLARIFICATION OF 6-YEAR STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS IN CASE OF OVERSTATEMENT OF BASIS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6501(e)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of clause (i), by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii), and by inserting after clause (i) the following new clause:

“(ii) An understatement of gross income by reason of an overstatement of unrecovered cost or other basis is an omission from gross income; and”, and

(2) by inserting “(other than in the case of an overstatement of unrecovered cost or other basis)” in clause (iii) (as so redesignated) after “In determining the amount omitted from gross income”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to—

(1) returns filed after the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(2) returns filed on or before such date if the period specified in section 6501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (determined without regard to such amendments) for assessment of the taxes with respect to which such return relates has not expired as of such date.

**SEC. 2006. TAX RETURN DUE DATES.**

(a) DUE DATES FOR RETURNS OF PARTNERSHIPS, S CORPORATIONS, AND C CORPORATIONS.—

(1) PARTNERSHIPS AND S CORPORATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—So much of subsection (b) of 6072 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as precedes the second sentence thereof is amended to read as follows:

“(b) RETURNS OF PARTNERSHIPS AND S CORPORATIONS.—Returns of partnerships under section 6031 and returns of S corporations under sections 6012 and 6037 made on the basis of the calendar year shall be filed on or before the 15th day of March following the close of the calendar year, and such returns made on the basis of a fiscal year shall be filed on or before the 15th day of the third month following the close of the fiscal year.”.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 6072(a) of such Code is amended by striking “6017, or 6031” and inserting “or 6017”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO C CORPORATION DUE DATE OF 15TH DAY OF FOURTH MONTH FOLLOWING TAXABLE YEAR.—

(A) Section 170(a)(2)(B) of such Code is amended by striking “third month” and inserting “fourth month”.

(B) Section 563 of such Code is amended by striking “third month” each place it appears and inserting “fourth month”.

(C) Section 1354(d)(1)(B)(i) of such Code is amended by striking “3d month” and inserting “4th month”.

(D) Subsections (a) and (c) of section 6167 of such Code are each amended by striking “third month” and inserting “fourth month”.

(E) Section 6425(a)(1) of such Code is amended by striking “third month” and inserting “fourth month”.

(F) Subsections (b)(2)(A), (g)(3), and (h)(1) of section 6655 of such Code are each amended by striking “3rd month” and inserting “4th month”.

(G) Section 6655(g)(4) of such Code is amended by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F) and by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

“(E) Subsection (b)(2)(A) shall be applied by substituting ‘3rd month’ for ‘4th month’.”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the amendments made by this subsection shall apply to returns for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015.

(B) SPECIAL RULE FOR C CORPORATIONS WITH FISCAL YEARS ENDING ON JUNE 30.—In the case of any C corporation with a taxable year ending on June 30, the amendments made by this subsection shall apply to returns for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

(b) MODIFICATION OF DUE DATES BY REGULATION.—In the case of returns for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015, the Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary's designee, shall modify appropriate regulations to provide as follows:

(1) The maximum extension for the returns of partnerships filing Form 1065 shall be a 6-month period ending on September 15 for calendar year taxpayers.

(2) The maximum extension for the returns of trusts filing Form 1041 shall be a 5½-month period ending on September 30 for calendar year taxpayers.

(3) The maximum extension for the returns of employee benefit plans filing Form 5500 shall be an automatic 3½-month period ending on November 15 for calendar year plans.

(4) The maximum extension for the returns of organizations exempt from income tax filing Form 990 (series) shall be an automatic 6-month period ending on November 15 for calendar year filers.

(5) The maximum extension for the returns of organizations exempt from income tax that are required to file Form 4720 returns of excise taxes shall be an automatic 6-month period beginning on the due date for filing the return (without regard to any extensions).

(6) The maximum extension for the returns of trusts required to file Form 5227 shall be an automatic 6-month period beginning on the due date for filing the return (without regard to any extensions).

(7) The maximum extension for filing Form 6069, Return of Excise Tax on Excess Contributions to Black Lung Benefit Trust Under Section 4953 and Computation of Section 192 Deduction, shall be an automatic 6-month period beginning on the due date for filing the return (without regard to any extensions).

(8) The maximum extension for a taxpayer required to file Form 8870 shall be an automatic 6-month period beginning on the due date for filing the return (without regard to any extensions).

(9) The due date of Form 3520-A, Annual Information Return of a Foreign Trust with a United States Owner, shall be the 15th day of the 3d month after the close of the trust's taxable year, and the maximum extension shall be a 6-month period beginning on such day.

(10) The due date of Form 3520, Annual Return to Report Transactions with Foreign Trusts and Receipt of Certain Foreign Gifts, for calendar year filers shall be April 15 with a maximum extension for a 6-month period ending on October 15.

(11) The due date of FinCEN Report 114 (relating to Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts) shall be April 15 with a maximum extension for a 6-month period ending on October 15 and with provision for an extension under rules similar to the rules in Treas. Reg. section 1.6081-5. For any taxpayer required to file such Form for the first time, any penalty for failure to timely request for, or file, an extension, may be waived by the Secretary.

(c) CORPORATIONS PERMITTED STATUTORY AUTOMATIC 6-MONTH EXTENSION OF INCOME TAX RETURNS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6081(b) of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking “3 months” and inserting “6 months”, and

(B) by adding at the end the following: “In the case of any return for a taxable year of a C corporation which ends on December 31 and begins before January 1, 2026, the first sentence of this subsection shall be applied by substituting ‘5 months’ for ‘6 months’.” In the case of any return for a taxable year of a C corporation which ends on June 30 and begins before January 1, 2026, the first sen-

tence of this subsection shall be applied by substituting ‘7 months’ for ‘6 months’.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to returns for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015.

#### SEC. 2007. TRANSFERS OF EXCESS PENSION ASSETS TO RETIREE HEALTH ACCOUNTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 420(b)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “December 31, 2021” and inserting “December 31, 2025”.

(b) CONFORMING ERISA AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Sections 101(e)(3), 403(c)(1), and 408(b)(13) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1021(e)(3), 1103(c)(1), 1108(b)(13)) are each amended by striking “MAP-21” and inserting “Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015”.

(2) Section 408(b)(13) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1108(b)(13)) is amended by striking “January 1, 2022” and inserting “January 1, 2026”.

#### SEC. 2008. EQUALIZATION OF HIGHWAY TRUST FUND EXCISE TAXES ON LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS, LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS, AND COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS.

(a) LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4041(a)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “and” at the end of clause (i), by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii), and by inserting after clause (i) the following new clause:

“(ii) in the case of liquefied petroleum gas, 18.3 cents per energy equivalent of a gallon of gasoline, and”.

(2) ENERGY EQUIVALENT OF A GALLON OF GASOLINE.—Section 4041(a)(2) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) ENERGY EQUIVALENT OF A GALLON OF GASOLINE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘energy equivalent of a gallon of gasoline’ means, with respect to a liquefied petroleum gas fuel, the amount of such fuel having a Btu content of 115,400 (lower heating value). For purposes of the preceding sentence, a Btu content of 115,400 (lower heating value) is equal to 5.75 pounds of liquefied petroleum gas.”.

(b) LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4041(a)(2)(B) of such Code, as amended by subsection (a)(1), is amended by striking “and” at the end of clause (ii), by striking the period at the end of clause (iii) and inserting “, and” and by inserting after clause (iii) the following new clause:

“(iv) in the case of liquefied natural gas, 24.3 cents per energy equivalent of a gallon of diesel.”.

(2) ENERGY EQUIVALENT OF A GALLON OF DIESEL.—Section 4041(a)(2) of such Code, as amended by subsection (a)(2), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(D) ENERGY EQUIVALENT OF A GALLON OF DIESEL.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘energy equivalent of a gallon of diesel’ means, with respect to a liquefied natural gas fuel, the amount of such fuel having a Btu content of 128,700 (lower heating value). For purposes of the preceding sentence, a Btu content of 128,700 (lower heating value) is equal to 6.06 pounds of liquefied natural gas.”.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 4041(a)(2)(B)(iii) of such Code, as redesignated by subsection (a)(1), is amended—

(A) by striking “liquefied natural gas,” and

(B) by striking “peat, and” and inserting “peat and”.

(c) ENERGY EQUIVALENT OF A GALLON OF GASOLINE TO COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS.—Section 4041(a)(3) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(D) ENERGY EQUIVALENT OF A GALLON OF GASOLINE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘energy equivalent of a gallon of gasoline’ means 5.66 pounds of compressed natural gas.”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any sale or use of fuel after December 31, 2015.

### TITLE III—ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

#### SEC. 3001. SERVICE FEES.

Paragraph (4) of section 44940(i) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(K) \$1,560,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.

“(L) \$1,600,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.”.

### TITLE IV—VETERANS PROVISIONS

#### SEC. 4001. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “VA Budget and Choice Improvement Act”.

#### SEC. 4002. PLAN TO CONSOLIDATE PROGRAMS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO CARE.

(a) PLAN.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop a plan to consolidate all non-Department provider programs by establishing a new, single program to be known as the “Veterans Choice Program” to furnish hospital care and medical services to veterans enrolled in the system of patient enrollment established under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan developed under subsection (a) to establish the Veterans Choice Program to furnish hospital care and medical services at non-Department facilities shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) A standardized method to furnish such care and services that incorporates the strengths of the non-Department provider programs into a single streamlined program that the Secretary administers uniformly in each Veterans Service Integrated Network and throughout the medical system of the Veterans Health Administration.

(2) An identification of the eligibility requirements for any such care and services, including with respect to service-connected disabilities and non-service-connected disabilities.

(3) A description of the authorization process for such care or medical services, including with respect to identifying the roles of clinicians, schedulers, any third-party administrators, the Chief Business Office of the Department, and any other entity involved in the authorization process.

(4) The structuring of the billing and reimbursement process, including the use of third-party medical claims adjudicators or technology that supports automatic adjudication.

(5) A description of the reimbursement rate to be paid to health care providers under such program.

(6) An identification of how the Secretary will determine the eligibility requirements of health care providers at non-Department facilities to participate in such program, including how the Secretary plans to structure a non-Department care network to allow the maximum amount of flexibility in providing care and services under the program.

(7) An explanation of the processes to be used to ensure that the Secretary will fully comply with all requirements of chapter 39 of title 31, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Prompt Payment Act”), in paying for such care and services furnished at non-Department facilities.

(8) A description of how, to the greatest extent practicable, the Secretary plans to use infrastructure and networks of non-Department provider programs that exist as of the date of the plan to implement such program.



(9) A description of how—

(A) health care providers at non-Department facilities that furnish such care or services to veterans under such program will have access to, and transmit back to the Department, the medical records of such veterans; and

(B) the Department will receive from such non-Department providers such medical records and any other relevant information.

(10) A description of how the Secretary plans to ensure an efficient transition to such program for veterans who participate in the non-Department provider programs, including a timeline, milestones, and estimated costs for implementation, outreach, and training.

(c) **SUBMISSION.**—Not later than November 1, 2015, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing—

(1) a description of each non-Department provider program and the statutory authority for each such program;

(2) the plan under subsection (a);

(3) the estimated costs and budgetary requirements to implement the plan and to furnish hospital care and medical services pursuant to such plan; and

(4) any recommendations for legislative proposals the Secretary determines necessary to implement such plan.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “non-Department facility” has the meaning given that term in section 1701 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term “non-Department provider programs” means each program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under which the Secretary enters into contracts or other agreements with health care providers at non-Department facilities to furnish hospital care and medical services to veterans, including pursuant to the following:

(A) Section 1703 of title 38, United States Code.

(B) The Veterans Choice Program established by section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(C) The Patient Centered Community Care Program (known as “PC3”).

(D) The pilot program established by section 403 of the Veterans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-387; 38 U.S.C. 1703 note) (known as “Project ARCH”).

(E) Contracts relating to dialysis.

(F) Agreements entered into by the Secretary with—

(i) the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the Indian Health Service, or any the head of any other department or agency of the Federal Government; or

(ii) any academic affiliate or other non-governmental entity.

(G) Programs relating to emergency care, including under sections 1725 and 1728 of title 38, United States Code.

#### **SEC. 4003. FUNDING ACCOUNT FOR NON-DEPARTMENT CARE.**

Each budget of the President submitted to Congress under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, for fiscal year 2017 and each fiscal year thereafter shall include an appropriations account for non-Department provider programs (as defined in section 2(d)) to be comprised of—

(1) discretionary medical services funding that is designated for hospital care and medical services furnished at non-Department facilities; and

(2) any funds transferred for such purpose from the Veterans Choice Fund established by section 802 of the Veterans Access,

Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 128 Stat. 1802).

#### **SEC. 4004. TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF VETERANS CHOICE FUNDS FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (c) of section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 128 Stat. 1802) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Any amounts” and inserting “Except as provided by paragraph (3), any amounts”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following paragraph:

“(3) **TEMPORARY AUTHORITY FOR OTHER USES.**—

“(A) **OTHER NON-DEPARTMENT CARE.**—In addition to the use of amounts described in paragraph (1), of the amounts deposited in the Veterans Choice Fund, not more than \$3,348,500,000 may be used by the Secretary during the period described in subparagraph (C) for amounts obligated by the Secretary on or after May 1, 2015, to furnish health care to individuals pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities, including pursuant to non-Department provider programs other than the program established by section 101.

“(B) **HEPATITIS C.**—Of the amount specified in subparagraph (A), not more than \$500,000,000 may be used by the Secretary during the period described in subparagraph (C) for pharmaceutical expenses relating to the treatment of Hepatitis C.

“(C) **PERIOD DESCRIBED.**—The period described in this subparagraph is the period beginning on the date of the enactment of the VA Budget and Choice Improvement Act and ending on October 1, 2015.

“(D) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 14 days after the date of the enactment of the VA Budget and Choice Improvement Act, and not less frequently than once every 14-day period thereafter during the period described in subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing—

“(i) the amounts used by the Secretary pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

“(ii) an identification of such amounts listed by the non-Department provider program for which the amounts were used.

“(E) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this paragraph:

“(i) The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(I) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(II) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

“(ii) The term ‘non-Department facilities’ has the meaning given that term in section 1701 of title 38, United States Code.

“(iii) The term ‘non-Department provider program’ has the meaning given that term in section 4002(d) of the VA Budget and Choice Improvement Act.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Subsection (d)(1) of such section is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “(or for hospital care and medical services pursuant to subsection (c)(3) of this section)”.

#### **SEC. 4005. MODIFICATIONS OF VETERANS CHOICE PROGRAM.**

(a) **INCREASED PERIOD OF FOLLOW-UP CARE.**—Subsection (h) of section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by striking “(but for a period not exceeding 60 days)”.

(b) **EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY.**—Such section is further amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) of subsection (b) and inserting the following new paragraph:

“(1) the veteran is enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code, including any such veteran who has not received hospital care or medical services from the Department and has contacted the Department seeking an initial appointment from the Department for the receipt of such care or services; and”; and

(2) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “In the case” and all that follows through “, when” and insert “When”.

(c) **EXPANSION OF PROVIDERS.**—Such section is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)(B), by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(v) Subject to subsection (d)(5), a health care provider not otherwise covered under any of clauses (i) through (iv).”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) **AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER PROVIDERS.**—In accordance with the rates determined pursuant to paragraph (2), the Secretary may enter into agreements under paragraph (1) for furnishing care and services to eligible veterans under this section with an entity specified in subsection (a)(1)(B)(v) if the entity meets criteria established by the Secretary for purposes of this section.”.

(d) **CLARIFICATION OF WAIT TIMES.**—Subparagraph (A) of subsection (b)(2) of such section is amended to read as follows:

“(A) attempts, or has attempted, to schedule an appointment for the receipt of hospital care or medical services under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, but is unable to schedule an appointment within—

“(i) the wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration for the furnishing of such care or services; or

“(ii) with respect to such care or services that are clinically necessary, the period determined necessary for such care or services if such period is shorter than such wait-time goals.”.

(e) **MODIFICATION OF DISTANCE REQUIREMENT.**—Subparagraph (B) of subsection (b)(2) of such section is amended to read as follows:

“(B) resides more than 40 miles (as calculated based on distance traveled) from—

“(i) with respect to a veteran who is seeking primary care, a medical facility of the Department, including a community-based outpatient clinic, that is able to provide such primary care by a full-time primary care physician; or

“(ii) with respect to a veteran not covered under clause (i), the medical facility of the Department, including a community-based outpatient clinic, that is closest to the residence of the veteran.”.

#### **SEC. 4006. LIMITATION ON DIALYSIS PILOT PROGRAM.**

(a) **LIMITATION.**—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may be used to expand the dialysis pilot program or to create any new dialysis capability provided by the Department in a facility that is not an initial facility under the dialysis pilot program until—

(1) an independent analysis of the dialysis pilot program is conducted for each such initial facility;

(2) the Secretary submits to the appropriate congressional committees the report under subsection (b); and

(3) a period of 180 days has elapsed following the date on which the Secretary submits such report.

(b) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing the following:

(1) The independent analysis described in subsection (a)(1).

(2) A five-year dialysis investment plan explaining all of the options of the Secretary for delivering dialysis care to veterans, including how and where such care will be delivered.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) The term “dialysis pilot program” means the pilot demonstration program approved by the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health in August 2010 and by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in September 2010 to provide dialysis care to patients at certain outpatient facilities operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(3) The term “initial facility” means one of the four outpatient facilities identified by the Secretary to participate in the dialysis pilot program prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 4007. AMENDMENTS TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE WITH RESPECT TO HEALTH COVERAGE OF VETERANS.

(a) EXEMPTION IN DETERMINATION OF EMPLOYER HEALTH INSURANCE MANDATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(F) EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.—Solely for purposes of determining whether an employer is an applicable large employer under this paragraph for any month, an individual shall not be taken into account as an employee for such month if such individual has medical coverage for such month under—

“(i) chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, including coverage under the TRICARE program, or

“(ii) under a health care program under chapter 17 or 18 of title 38, United States Code, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT NOT AFFECTED BY RECEIPT OF MEDICAL CARE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 223(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) SPECIAL RULE FOR INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS BENEFITS.—An individual shall not fail to be treated as an eligible individual for any period merely because the individual receives hospital care or medical services under any law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a service-connected disability (within the meaning of section 101(16) of title 38, United States Code).”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2015.

#### SEC. 4008. EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—This title, except for section 4007, is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(b) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, this title, except for section 4007, is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided among and controlled by the respective chairs and ranking minority members of the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means, and Veterans’ Affairs.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER), and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3236 is a 3-month clean extension to the surface transportation legislation. It is the right thing to do.

It gives the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Ways and Means the time to work out a long-term solution to the surface transportation bill, which we need to pass for the health of this country.

Importantly, it gives the House of Representatives the ability to do its constitutional duty to be heard on important legislation that is important to all 50 States and all 435 congressional districts.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I would direct anyone interested in this legislation to my remarks on the 5-month bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask all 435 Members of the House to support H.R. 3236 with a “yes” vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to echo the comments of the prior chair. We think this is the right solution. This is very similar to the bill we passed earlier. We believe this gives us the time we need to try and put together a long-term highway solution. That is why we are in favor of this.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, here we are with another short-term extension of the highway trust fund. It is silly; it is counterproductive. Anybody who knows anything knows this is ridiculous. They say we have got to have time to work out a compromise. How many years do you need time?

When I served in the State legislature in my home State of Washington, a businessman once told me that businessowners don’t care what the rate is or how long; they just want to know how long they have to deal with something.

Now, how can businesses do any kind of planning in this country when they get 1-, 2-, and 3-month extensions? This

is the 25th time that we have done a short-term extension of the highway trust fund. Put another way, this is the 25th time the Congress has shirked its responsibility to the taxpayers and businesses to provide reliable transportation infrastructure across this country.

Now, as I thought about this debate, I was reminded of a tube of toothpaste that lays in my bathroom. It is about one-third gone. All of you have one of these at home that is laying there.

You know what you do; you keep squeezing it one more time. You say: Can I get one more brush out of this? Will I get one more? Can I get one more? That is what we have been doing here. We are squeezing the tube one more time. We are going to be back.

You save your toothpaste because it is going to be back; it is going to be back in November or December. We are going to be right back down here squeezing to get a little bit.

Now, my belief is that it is time that we stop this. It is time for a long-term funding bill, and we should have done it this time.

Now, in order to make this bill even worse, they wrap in the toothpaste tube of the Veterans Administration. Let’s give a little bit of money here, a little bit of money there; and we will see if we can kind of move it along and then stay out of trouble. We never fix anything here.

This Congress is the Congress of the half-empty toothpaste tube. I will probably vote with everybody else because you don’t want the Veterans Administration to be having problems and you don’t want the hospital construction to stop.

We will vote for it, but it is foolish, and it is a statement about the failure of the Republican Party to deal with major issues.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), a member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. I thank the chairman. I come to the floor today to talk about our bill, H.R. 2514, the Help Veterans Save for Health Care Act, which is part of the legislation now before us.

As a 29-year Air Force veteran and former POW, it is no secret I am a proud advocate for America’s veterans. They bravely served our country. They deserve the best care when they return home. Unfortunately, the VA has failed to uphold its end of the bargain. We have been working hard to fix it.

To add insult to injury, the IRS—yes, the IRS—has also let down our veterans. Right now, the IRS prohibits veterans from contributing to a health savings account for a period of time if they choose to get care at the VA.

These health savings accounts enable Americans to save and pay for medical expenses; yet, here, we have the IRS standing in the way of veterans, keeping them from getting the care they want, need, and deserve. That is wrong.



Bottom line, veterans shouldn't have to choose between getting care at the VA for a service-connected disability or being able to save for health care, including their families. My bill would allow veterans to do both.

In closing, I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for their support. I would also like to thank the chairman for working with me on this, but most importantly, I want to personally thank each of our veterans who faithfully serve to protect this great Nation.

Let's get this done.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS).

□ 1630

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. I thank the gentleman from Washington for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman. I agree that we are squeezing and squeezing and extending and extending when we know better and we know the difference. We know that we could have a meaningful solution to the problem that we face. We know it. We come and we kick the can a little bit, add a little bit more to it.

Like him, I am going to vote for it. But I am going to vote for it not because I think it is the best approach; I am going to vote for it because I want to see construction crews continue to work. I want to see families who are looking for paychecks be able to continue to get them.

I am going to vote for it because I want to see roads and bridges and highways repaired. I want to see veterans be able to go to the doctor and not wonder whether or not the doctor is going to be there to take care of them.

So, yes, I will vote for it; and I will look up and see that we will be back in December voting again, but we do what we have to do. We have to keep America working. I will vote for it to keep America working.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let's review this week. When I got on the plane from Seattle, we were supposed to be here on Friday. By the time I landed at Dulles Airport, they had already given away Friday. We weren't going to have any votes on Friday. So now the week is 1 day short. They continued to ineptly manage this place in such a way, Mr. Speaker, that they are now giving away Thursday.

Now they want to hurry out of here. They want to get out of here. They don't want the American people to see what they are really doing.

If you look at this transportation issue, what is making us uncompetitive in the rest of the world is that everywhere else they are spending money on infrastructure. People know you have to have roads, you have to have high-speed stuff in the ground that will

carry a little bit of a message here and there. All that wiring, all that stuff that we could be doing, we should be doing. We should be planning. But there isn't any State that can plan with this kind of a highway bill.

Now, why aren't we doing the thing today that is right? Well, because the Senate has come up with a great proposal. They have a 6-year authorization, but they come up with 3 years of money. How does a State plan with that? We are authorized for 6 years out to whatever that would be, and we are going to wind up only getting money for 3 years. How do we do bond issues in the State when we don't know what the Feds are going to do? This kind of planning makes government fail. And it is what the Republicans want: a Federal Government that fails.

Now, there was a guy named Eisenhower. When he became President, he came in and said: You know something? This country needs roads. And he created the entire system. He was a Republican from Kansas, of all places, and he understood what the country needed to move forward.

People said in the last election what we need to do is elect Republicans. By God, if we get Republicans, we will get what we need in this country. Well, I don't know if they knew what they were voting for, but what they got is a Senate and House that can't come up with a highway bill. They have been here for 8 months. Everybody knows we need it. The sources of revenue are not mysteries.

Russell Long used to say about taxation: "Don't tax you, don't tax me, tax that fellow behind the tree."

We know there is nobody behind the tree. We are going to have to raise some taxes to do what is necessary.

Well, there are those guys that have that money overseas. Maybe we can get those guys who have got that overseas money and bring it back and fund this. I guess they are behind the tree. But they also live here, so they are not really behind the tree.

This argument is going to go on in December or whenever this thing ends. It doesn't really make any difference. We will come back here, and we will get out our toothpaste tube and we will squeeze a little bit more out of it just to see if we can brush our teeth one more time. That is what this is about. We have done it on issue after issue here, and somebody has to call the Republican Party on this.

The American people should understand, they are not serious about running government for the things that affect ordinary human beings. A transit system in a State is absolutely important. As cities get more crowded and more crowded and there is no parking, if you don't have a transit system that works, you can't have development. Everybody wants development.

Where the heck are you going to put the development? Out in the bushes? No. You are going to put it in the city where the people live. But if they can't

move around and get to the jobs, you have got terrible problems. In every city and everybody's district, if you have got a city with over 50,000, you have got problems with traffic, and yet we can't get a transportation bill out of here that goes for more than 3 months. Now, that is pathetic.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I disagree with the gentleman. I think we should pass this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

First of all, I want to thank the chairman for his continued bipartisan work on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. We all want to do what is best for the veterans, and the chairman has continued to work toward that goal.

On this past Monday, 62 years after the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement, the committee laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery in honor of our fallen military members. Today, we need more than a ceremony. We should honor our veterans now by passing H.R. 3236.

I support this legislation because it addresses the \$3 million shortfall for fiscal year 2015 at the VA and keeps hospitals and medical facilities open for our veterans through the end of the fiscal year. Let me repeat that. It will allow the VA to keep hospitals and clinics open for our veterans through the end of this fiscal year.

This legislation allows the VA to use \$3.348 billion that was appropriated for the Choice Program to use for non-VA care, to pay for health care provided to veterans and family members under the programs provided by non-VA providers from May 1 to October 1, 2015. The VA has completed more than 56 million appointments between June 1, 2014, and May 31, 2015. That is 2.6 million more than the same time last year.

H.R. 3236 allows the VA to access \$3 billion from the Choice fund and \$348 million from other unobligated accounts. Of that amount, \$500 million may be used for pharmaceutical expenses related to the treatment of hepatitis C at the VA. This is a cure that many of our veterans need, especially those who served in Vietnam.

Three times in this fiscal year, the Secretary has testified before the VA committee, and he has consistently been asking for the authority to run the VA like a business.

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I want to thank Chairman MILLER of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Ranking Member BROWN, and, of

course, Chairman DENT, who chairs the Appropriations MILCON-VA Subcommittee, where I serve as ranking member.

Today, this body is debating text within the highway bill to address the Department of Veterans Affairs' \$3 billion budget shortfall for veterans' health care in FY 2015. Without this legislation, the VA could run out of money by September. Costs have exploded by more than 10 percent in the last year as a result of higher demand, while the budget increased by only 2.8 percent.

Additionally, costs for treatments have increased. For example, due to the new lifesaving hepatitis C medicine costing as much as \$1,000 for a single pill, the VA's \$700 million FY 2015 budget for hepatitis C has already been exceeded with more than 2 months left in the fiscal year.

This situation is a prime example of how the sequester caps imposed by the Budget Control Act and locked in by the Republican budget constrain our ability to deal with issues responsibly and in a timely manner. It is well past time that we come to the table to break the cycle of irresponsible funding levels that are shortchanging our veterans' health care.

While the House-passed FY 2016 MILCON-VA Appropriations bill adds \$970 million for VA medical care advance appropriations within the FY 2015 bill, the amount still remains \$330 million below the VA request, most likely leading to another budget shortfall in FY 2016. Today's bill is only a Band-Aid, a temporary solution, because of budget caps.

To be clear, if we continue to ignore the new reality of increased demand and higher costs, delivery of healthcare services to millions of currently enrolled veterans will be devastated for the foreseeable future.

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. If Congress continues to function under these budgets caps, we will see more gaps in access, utilization, safety, and, ultimately, a lower standard of care. Even further, the caps limit Congress' options to create jobs, keep our communities safe, research lifesaving medical treatments, and give our children a better education.

I urge Members to vote for this bill to ensure that veterans continue to receive the care which they have earned, but we cannot continue to govern in this fashion. Today, we must take the next step towards a more responsible budgeting process so we can eventually stop lurching from one crisis to the next. To do so, the budget caps must be directly addressed in order to properly invest in veterans' health care as well as advance other priorities assisting hard-working Americans.

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

It is a little frustrating as we watch these disparate subjects lumped together on the floor with truncated debate. I want to speak to just one element that we are discussing here today, and that deals with the extension of transportation funding.

The passage of this bill will represent the 34th short-term extension of the surface transportation bill. What country became great building its infrastructure 8 months at a time? 6 months at a time? a year at a time? It is a failure on the part of Congress to be able to understand that you cannot pay for 2015 infrastructure needs with 1993 dollars—the last time we adjusted the user fee, the gas tax that supports the highway trust fund.

□ 1645

I do see a little tiny glimmer of daylight with the 3-month extension. I have personally been urging the President to indicate that this is the last extension that he will sign.

The House Ways and Means Committee could pass a funding measure in a week if we would roll up our sleeves. We have legislation there that is supported by the U.S. Chamber, AFL-CIO, by truckers, transit, the AAA, a wide array of people who say: Step up, raise our user fee, fund the transportation system, and do it right.

We used to have the finest infrastructure in the world. Now, we are about 25th in the world and falling further.

If the Ways and Means Committee would spend a week listening to the people who build, maintain, operate, and use our infrastructure, we could come to a resolution.

Ronald Reagan's approach was to raise the user fee 125 percent in 1982.

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. If we did our job, sending clear signals about transportation funding, the appropriating committee, the T&I, if they knew what they were working with, could come forth with a bill easily in 2 months, so we wouldn't have to continue this charade.

We could put hundreds of thousands of people to work at family-wage jobs in every city around the country; we would meet our obligations, and we would stop this shameful exercise of abrogating our responsibility to rebuild and renew.

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have, sir?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida has 3 minutes remaining.

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

I believe that the Secretary needs that authority. In addition to solving the fiscal crisis, this bill will enable the Secretary to run VA more like a business, and that, Mr. Speaker, means a more efficient VA and better care for our veterans.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to ensure that our veterans are taken care of.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, only 2 weeks ago, buried in a letter from the Deputy Secretary, the Department of Veterans Affairs made a startling announcement. That announcement was, unless Congress intervened, the VA healthcare system would shut down in August, due to a massive budget shortfall that resulted from larger than anticipated demand for non-VA care and increased costs for hepatitis C treatment.

A VA healthcare system shutdown would be an unprecedented event in these United States' history. The possibility of a shutdown was never mentioned, even once, during a hearing that I called in late June, where VA first publicly admitted its budget troubles, or during any of the four times that Secretary McDonald testified before Congress this year or anywhere in the quarterly financial plan that VA submitted in March, showing that VA was operating under budget so far this fiscal year.

Once again, this Congress comes to rescue a mismanaged Department of Veterans Affairs.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today, H.R. 3236 will come to the floor of the House with a critical 3 month extension to the Highway Trust fund as well as changes to Department of Veterans Affairs' spending authorities. In particular, it contains changes to the Veterans Affairs' Choice Program that I believe are very important for Guam. It expands eligibility for the program and codifies some of the changes that the VA has made since the inception of the program to make it more accessible to veterans in rural or isolated communities and reduces some barriers to timely care.

Though this bill is a good step towards better care for our veterans, there are many more improvements that I will continue to work for with my colleagues and the VA. There is still a need for greater flexibility in the reimbursement rate to health care providers which could be an issue on Guam in the near future. Further, there is a need to improve the methods in which our veterans and their records can move back and forth between VA and non-VA providers. Additionally, though I would have preferred to see additional appropriations to cover the shortfall in the other programs that are covering non-VA provided care for our veterans, I have been assured that the movement of funds within the VA accounts will not negatively affect the care our veterans are receiving through the Choice Program and that the transfer is temporary. I will continue to urge the Obama Administration to provide adequate funding for all VA programs, but particularly the Choice program which has a lot of interest and support on Guam. The Choice

program has the ability to, in the long-term, address some of the systemic issues to VA care in isolated areas of the country.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 388, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes 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 385, nays 34, answered “present” 1, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 486]

YEAS—385

Abraham	Cook	Goodlatte
Adams	Costello (PA)	Gowdy
Aderholt	Courtney	Graham
Aguilar	Cramer	Granger
Allen	Crawford	Graves (GA)
Ashford	Crenshaw	Graves (LA)
Babin	Crowley	Graves (MO)
Barr	Cuellar	Grayson
Barton	Culberson	Green, Al
Bass	Cummings	Green, Gene
Beatty	Curbelo (FL)	Griffith
Becerra	Davis (CA)	Grijalva
Benishek	Davis, Danny	Guinta
Bera	Davis, Rodney	Guthrie
Bilirakis	DeFazio	Gutiérrez
Bishop (GA)	Delaney	Hahn
Bishop (MI)	DeLauro	Hanna
Bishop (UT)	DelBene	Hardy
Black	Denham	Harper
Blackburn	Dent	Harris
Blum	DeSantis	Hartzler
Blumenauer	DeSaulnier	Hastings
Bonamici	DesJarlais	Heck (NV)
Bost	Deutch	Heck (WA)
Boustany	Diaz-Balart	Hensarling
Boyle, Brendan	Dingell	Herrera Beutler
F.	Doggett	Higgins
Brady (PA)	Dold	Hill
Brady (TX)	Donovan	Himes
Brat	Doyle, Michael	Hinojosa
Brooks (AL)	F.	Holding
Brown (FL)	Duckworth	Honda
Brownley (CA)	Duffy	Hoyer
Buchanan	Duncan (SC)	Hudson
Bucshon	Duncan (TN)	Huelskamp
Burgess	Edwards	Huffman
Bustos	Ellison	Huizenga (MI)
Butterfield	Ellmers (NC)	Hultgren
Calvert	Emmer (MN)	Hunter
Capps	Engel	Hurd (TX)
Capuano	Eshoo	Hurt (VA)
Cárdenas	Esty	Israel
Carson (IN)	Farenthold	Issa
Carter (GA)	Farr	Jackson Lee
Cartwright	Fattah	Jeffries
Castor (FL)	Fincher	Jenkins (KS)
Castro (TX)	Fitzpatrick	Jenkins (WV)
Chabot	Fleischmann	Johnson (GA)
Chaffetz	Fleming	Johnson (OH)
Chu, Judy	Flores	Johnson, E. B.
Ciilline	Forbes	Johnson, Sam
Clarke (NY)	Fortenberry	Jolly
Clay	Foster	Jordan
Cleaver	Fox	Joyce
Clyburn	Frankel (FL)	Kaptur
Coffman	Franks (AZ)	Katko
Cohen	Frelinghuysen	Keating
Cole	Fudge	Kelly (IL)
Collins (GA)	Gabbard	Kelly (MS)
Collins (NY)	Gallagher	Kelly (PA)
Comstock	Garamendi	Kennedy
Conaway	Gibbs	Kildee
Connolly	Gibson	Kilmer
Conyers	Gohmert	Kind

King (IA)	Nolan	Shimkus
King (NY)	Norcross	Shuster
Kinzinger (IL)	Nugent	Simpson
Kirkpatrick	Nunes	Sinema
Kline	O'Rourke	Sires
Knight	Olson	Slaughter
Kuster	Palazzo	Smith (MO)
LaMalfa	Pallone	Smith (NE)
Lamborn	Palmer	Smith (NJ)
Lance	Pascarella	Smith (TX)
Langevin	Paulsen	Smith (WA)
Larsen (WA)	Payne	Speier
Larson (CT)	Pelosi	Stefanik
Latta	Perlmutter	Stewart
Lawrence	Peterson	Stivers
Lee	Pingree	Stutzman
Lewis	Pittenger	Swalwell (CA)
Lieu, Ted	Pitts	Takai
Lipinski	Pocan	Takano
LoBiondo	Poe (TX)	Thompson (CA)
Loeb	Poliquin	Thompson (MS)
Lofgren	Pompeo	Thompson (PA)
Long	Posey	Thornberry
Loudermilk	Price, Tom	Tiberi
Love	Quigley	Tipton
Lowenthal	Rangel	Titus
Lowe	Ratcliffe	Tonko
Lucas	Reed	Torres
Luetkemeyer	Reichert	Trott
Lujan, Ben Ray	Rice (NY)	Tsongas
(NM)	Richmond	Turner
Lynch	Rigell	Upton
MacArthur	Roby	Valadao
Maloney,	Roe (TN)	Van Hollen
Carolyn	Rogers (AL)	Vargas
Maloney, Sean	Rogers (KY)	Veasey
Marchant	Rohrabacher	Vela
Marino	Rokita	Velázquez
Massie	Rooney (FL)	Wagner
Matsui	Ros-Lehtinen	Walberg
McCarthy	Roskam	Walden
McCaul	Ross	Walorski
McGovern	Rothfus	Walters, Mimi
McHenry	Rouzer	Walz
McKinley	Roybal-Allard	Wasserman
McMorris	Royce	Schultz
Rodgers	Ruiz	Waters, Maxine
McNerney	Ruppersberger	Watson Coleman
McSally	Rush	Webster (FL)
Meadows	Russell	Wenstrup
Meehan	Ryan (OH)	Westerman
Meeks	Ryan (WI)	Westmoreland
Meng	Sánchez, Linda	Williams
Messer	T.	Wilson (FL)
Mica	Sanchez, Loretta	Wilson (SC)
Miller (FL)	Sarbanes	Wittman
Miller (MI)	Scalise	Womack
Moolenaar	Schakowsky	Woodall
Mooney (WV)	Schiff	Yarmuth
Mullin	Schrader	Yoder
Murphy (FL)	Schweikert	Yoho
Murphy (PA)	Scott, Austin	Young (AK)
Nadler	Scott, David	Young (IA)
Napolitano	Serrano	Young (IN)
Neal	Sessions	Zeldin
Newhouse	Sewell (AL)	Zinke
Noem	Sherman	

NAYS—34

Amash	Hice, Jody B.	Ribble
Amodei	Jones	Rice (SC)
Barletta	Lummis	Salmon
Beyer	McClintock	Sanford
Bridenstine	McDermott	Scott (VA)
Buck	Moulton	Sensenbrenner
Byrne	Mulvaney	Visclosky
Clark (MA)	Neugebauer	Walker
DeGette	Pearce	Weber (TX)
Garrett	Perry	Welch
Gosar	Polis	
Grothman	Renacci	

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

McCollum

NOT VOTING—13

Brooks (IN)	Costa	Moore
Carney	Labrador	Peters
Carter (TX)	Levin	Price (NC)
Clawson (FL)	Lujan Grisham	Whitfield
Cooper	(NM)	

□ 1731

Mr. WALKER and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. HONDA, HOYER, RICHMOND, CLYBURN, ISRAEL,

CLEAVER, KILDEE, JOHNSON of Georgia, and YOHO changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 486, I was unavoidably detained in DC traffic while returning from a meeting at the White House. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 486, had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond my control, I regretfully missed rollcall vote 486 on July 29th. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for a vote taken on the House floor today, as I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall Vote No. 486.

## VA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 388 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1994.

Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1733

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1994) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, and for other purposes, with Mr. CARTER of Georgia (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 114-234 offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.