

Therefore, on sections 559 and 560, what we did is we said we are going to bring the private sector in, and it has worked well in doing this. We have seen—and I think it has been mentioned, but I will mention it again. We entered into 29 of those stakeholder reimbursement service agreements, and we saw more additional processing hours to make sure that we moved 3 million additional travelers and almost 460,000 new vehicles.

Again, this is going to help us.

What does this bill do? This bill will help us expand that pilot program in many ways and authorize it for 10 years. This bill will limit the number of reimbursable service agreements that we have at the ports of entry, but, more importantly, it is going to allow us to hire CBP officers faster. I know the chairman knows this very well. Imagine if we have this. We have got to bring officers into the CBP faster, and this is what this bill will do.

So again, I want to thank the House sponsors, KEVIN BRADY, Chairman MICHAEL MCCAUL, Mr. HURD, and Mr. O'ROURKE, and, of course, on the Senate side, Senator CORNYN and Senator KLOBUCHAR for making sure that we did it and that we are doing it in a bipartisan way.

I ask that we pass this bill.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI).

Mr. AMODEI. I thank my colleague from the Pelican State and also the ranking member from the Bay State.

Mr. Speaker, I am a bit nervous. I don't want to break up this Lone Star class reunion here, but speaking on behalf of a small place in the intermountain west, section 481 of H.R. 875 addresses a CBP staffing issue at smaller land port of entry airports.

As we all know, the CBP mission at our numerous ports of entry is growing, and adequate staffing at the larger ports needs to be augmented. However, airport authorities and smaller land ports of entry are also increasing their international passenger counts and need additional CBP personnel to adequately screen their passengers.

The language contained herein allows small land port airports to reimburse CBP the actual cost of assigning up to five more CBP screening personnel, thereby keeping screening times within reasonable limits for those air passengers. This language represents bicameral, bipartisan, nationwide consensus on a needed staffing reimbursement option for CBP. Similarly, I urge Members' bipartisan nationwide support.

God bless the State of Texas and the other 49 also.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O'ROURKE), another individual who has had a profound influence on this legislation and has had a long-time interest in the topic as well.

Mr. O'ROURKE. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts, our new

ranking member on the committee, for yielding and for his work on this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, there are few things as important for us in this Congress to work on as creating more jobs and sustaining those that we have right now. U.S.-Mexico trade today supports more than 6 million jobs in every single State of the Union, 500,000 jobs in the State of Texas alone, and one out of every four jobs in the community that I have the honor to represent, El Paso, Texas.

The men and women who serve in Customs and Border Protection, the officers in blue at our ports of entry, are understaffed and overstressed, and they need our help. What we are doing in this bill is allowing local communities and local stakeholders who have an interest in the success of our ports of entry and in U.S.-Mexico trade and in creating more jobs to fund the necessary overtime hours and infrastructure improvements at those ports.

I want to thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle and in both Chambers—Senator CORNYN in the other Chamber, Members CUELLAR and HURD and others in this one—who see the wisdom in allowing local communities to fill the gap where government has been unable to do so.

Whether it is the \$90 billion in U.S.-Mexico trade that crosses the El Paso-Ciudad Juarez ports of entry every year or the 32 million inspections that are conducted there, this is a way to grow our economy. It is a way to ensure that we are more secure because we know precisely who is coming in when we have the manpower and infrastructure to inspect all those who want to cross in here. We are allowing local communities and not the Federal Government to pick up the tab in a way that is going to benefit this country as a whole.

I couldn't help but notice the current chair of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, the incoming chair, and the ranking member, who are all here. I know they are all pleased to see in this bill an expedited process to hire our veterans, to transition them from Active Duty service to meaningful employment as a Customs officer through an expedited process in this bill. That means we staff more of our CBP positions, we put more veterans to work, and we do better for this country.

This is a bill that should have the support of every single Member of this Congress, and I urge its quick passage.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I have no other Members wishing to speak on the bill, and I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank Dr. BOUSTANY, who has been a friend on the Ways and Means Committee. I assume this might be his last time handling legislation on the floor. He was great to work with over the years.

I take some satisfaction, Mr. Speaker, that having either been chairman or

ranking member of the Tax Policy Subcommittee of the Committee on Ways and Means, that I simply wore them all down because, every 2 years, they would send somebody else over to share that responsibility.

Dr. BOUSTANY is a real gentleman. He has been a friend, and he has been a very nice guy to work with.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for his very, very kind words. It has been a true pleasure working with him on the Tax Policy Subcommittee. I want to congratulate him on becoming ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee. I know he will do a fabulous job. I am only sorry I won't be around next year to work with him and beyond. I congratulate him.

Godspeed, do a great job, and get tax reform done.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 875, the Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act of 2016, to strengthen our ability to enforce U.S. trade laws.

I am very pleased that our solution has such strong bipartisan support and makes good on our commitment to stop the flow of illicit goods while also facilitating legitimate trade that is vital to American economic competitiveness. I urge passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 875, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXTENDING WAIVER OF LIMITATIONS WITH RESPECT TO EXCLUDING FROM GROSS INCOME AMOUNTS RECEIVED BY WRONGFULLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Ways and Means be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6438) to extend the waiver of limitations with respect to excluding from gross income amounts received by wrongfully incarcerated individuals, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6438

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF WAIVER OF LIMITATIONS WITH RESPECT TO EXCLUDING FROM GROSS INCOME AMOUNTS RECEIVED BY WRONGFULLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 304(d) of the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 is amended by striking “1-year” and inserting “2-year”.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 304(d) of such Act is amended by striking “application of this Act” and inserting “application of this section”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in section 304 of the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JEFF MILLER AND RICHARD BLUMENTHAL VETERANS HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H. R. 6416) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6416

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—DISABILITY COMPENSATION MATTERS

- Sec. 101. Expedited payment of survivors’ benefits.
- Sec. 102. Board of Veterans’ Appeals video hearings.
- Sec. 103. Requirement that Secretary of Veterans Affairs publish the average time required to adjudicate early-filed and later-filed appeals.
- Sec. 104. Comptroller General review of claims processing performance of regional offices of Veterans Benefits Administration.
- Sec. 105. Report on staffing levels at regional offices of Department of Veterans Affairs under National Work Queue.
- Sec. 106. Inclusion in annual budget submission of information on capacity of Veterans Benefits Administration to process benefits claims.
- Sec. 107. Report on plans of Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reduce inventory of non-rating workload; sense of Congress regarding Monday Morning Workload Report.
- Sec. 108. Annual report on progress in implementing Veterans Benefits Management System.

- Sec. 109. Improvements to authority for performance of medical disabilities examinations by contract physicians.
- Sec. 110. Independent review of process by which Department of Veterans Affairs assesses impairments that result from traumatic brain injury for purposes of awarding disability compensation.
- Sec. 111. Reports on claims for disability compensation.
- Sec. 112. Sense of Congress regarding American veterans disabled for life.
- Sec. 113. Sense of Congress on submittal of information relating to claims for disabilities incurred or aggravated by military sexual trauma.

TITLE II—UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

- Sec. 201. Extension of temporary increase in number of judges on United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.
- Sec. 202. Life insurance program relating to judges of United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.
- Sec. 203. Voluntary contributions to enlarge survivors’ annuity.
- Sec. 204. Selection of chief judge of United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

TITLE III—BURIAL BENEFITS AND OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 301. Expansion of eligibility for headstones, markers, and medallions.
- Sec. 302. Expansion of Presidential Memorial Certificate program.
- Sec. 303. Department of Veterans Affairs study on matters relating to burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries.
- Sec. 304. Study on provision of interments in veterans’ cemeteries during weekends.
- Sec. 305. Honoring as veterans certain persons who performed service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces.

TITLE IV—EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

- Sec. 401. Clarification of eligibility for Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship.
- Sec. 402. Approval of courses of education and training for purposes of the vocational rehabilitation program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 403. Authority to prioritize vocational rehabilitation services based on need.
- Sec. 404. Reports on progress of students receiving Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.
- Sec. 405. Recodification and improvement of election process for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program.
- Sec. 406. Work-study allowance.
- Sec. 407. Centralized reporting of veteran enrollment by certain groups, districts, and consortiums of educational institutions.
- Sec. 408. Role of State approving agencies.
- Sec. 409. Modification of requirements for approval for purposes of educational assistance provided by Department of Veterans Affairs of programs designed to prepare individuals for licensure or certification.

- Sec. 410. Criteria used to approve courses.
- Sec. 411. Compliance surveys.
- Sec. 412. Modification of reductions in reporting fee multipliers for payments by Secretary of Veterans Affairs to educational institutions.
- Sec. 413. Composition of Veterans’ Advisory Committee on Education.
- Sec. 414. Survey of individuals using their entitlement to educational assistance under the educational assistance programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 415. Department of Veterans Affairs provision of information on articulation agreements between institutions of higher learning.
- Sec. 416. Retention of entitlement to educational assistance during certain additional periods of active duty.
- Sec. 417. Technical amendment relating to in-state tuition rate for individuals to whom entitlement is transferred under all-volunteer force educational assistance program and post-9/11 educational assistance.
- Sec. 418. Study on the effectiveness of veterans transition efforts.

TITLE V—SMALL BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

- Sec. 501. Modification of treatment under contracting goals and preferences of Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 502. Longitudinal study of job counseling, training, and placement service for veterans.
- Sec. 503. Limitation on administrative leave for employees of Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 504. Required coordination between Directors for Veterans’ Employment and Training with State departments of labor and veterans affairs.

TITLE VI—HEALTH CARE MATTERS

Subtitle A—Medical Care

- Sec. 601. Requirement for advance appropriations for the Medical Community Care account of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 602. Improved access to appropriate immunizations for veterans.
- Sec. 603. Priority of medal of honor recipients in health care system of Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 604. Requirement that Department of Veterans Affairs collect health-plan contract information from veterans.
- Sec. 605. Mental health treatment for veterans who served in classified missions.
- Sec. 606. Examination and treatment by Department of Veterans Affairs for emergency medical conditions and women in labor.

Subtitle B—Veterans Health Administration

- Sec. 611. Time period covered by annual report on Readjustment Counseling Service.
- Sec. 612. Annual report on Veterans Health Administration and furnishing of hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care.
- Sec. 613. Expansion of qualifications for licensed mental health counselors of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include doctoral degrees.