

Gallego  
Garamendi  
Gibbs  
Gibson  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte  
Gowdy  
Graham  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Griffith  
Grijalva  
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Hanabusa  
Hanna  
Hardy  
Harper  
Hartzler  
Hastings  
Heck (NV)  
Heck (WA)  
Hensarling  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice, Jody B.  
Higgins  
Hill  
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Hinojosa  
Holding  
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Hudson  
Huelskamp  
Huffman  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
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Israel  
Issa  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Johnson, Sam  
Jordan  
Joyce  
Kaptur  
Katko  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kline  
Knight  
Kuster  
Labrador  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latta  
Lawrence  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Loeback  
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Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lowenthal

Lowey  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lujan Grisham  
(NM)  
Lujan, Ben Ray  
(NM)  
Lummis  
Lynch  
MacArthur  
Maloney  
Carolyn  
Maloney, Sean  
Marchant  
Marino  
Matsui  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McNerney  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Meeks  
Meng  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Moore  
Moulton  
Mullin  
Murphy (FL)  
Murphy (PA)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nolan  
Norcross  
Nugent  
Nunes  
O'Rourke  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Pascrell  
Paulsen  
Payne  
Pearce  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Perry  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Pitts  
Pocan  
Poliquin  
Polis  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price (NC)  
Price, Tom  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen

Roskam  
Ross  
Rouzer  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Russell  
Ryan (OH)  
Salmon  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sarbanes  
Scalise  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schradler  
Schweikert  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Sherman  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tipton  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Trott  
Tsongas  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Van Hollen  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Walz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Welch  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yarmuth  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

## ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Mulvaney

Rice (SC)

## NOT VOTING—22

Brown (FL)  
Clyburn  
Crenshaw  
Ellmers (NC)  
Fincher  
Fitzpatrick  
Garrett  
Graves (MO)

Honda  
Jolly  
Jones  
Kirkpatrick  
Lee  
Miller (MI)  
Pittenger  
Poe (TX)

Rothfus  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Tiberi  
Westmoreland

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1413

Mr. RICE of South Carolina changed his vote from "yea" to "present."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1415

# AUTHORIZING DIRECTORS OF VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORKS TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS TO INVESTIGATE MEDICAL CENTERS

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6435) to authorize the Directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with appropriate civilian accreditation entities or appropriate health care evaluation entities to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6435

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

## SECTION 1. AUTHORITY OF DIRECTORS OF VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORKS TO INVESTIGATE MEDICAL CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of a Veterans Integrated Service Network of the Department of Veterans Affairs may contract with an appropriate entity specializing in civilian accreditation or health care evaluation to investigate any medical center within such Network to assess and report deficiencies of the facilities at such medical center.

(b) COORDINATION.—Before entering into any contract under subsection (a), the Director of a Veterans Integrated Service Network shall notify the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Comptroller General of the United States for purposes of coordinating any investigation conducted pursuant to such contract with any other investigations or accreditations that may be ongoing.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

(1) to prevent the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs from conducting any review, audit, evaluation, or inspection regarding a topic

for which a review is conducted under subsection (a); or

(2) to modify the requirement that employees of the Department assist with any review, audit, evaluation, or inspection conducted by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 6435, a bill to authorize the Directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks, or VISN, of the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with appropriate civilian accreditation entities or appropriate health care evaluation entities to investigate VA medical centers.

This bill would allow VISN directors to contract with an appropriate non-VA entity with expertise and civilian accreditation or healthcare evaluation to investigate any medical center within that director's catchment area.

It is no secret that the last few years have been tumultuous for the VA healthcare system, beginning with the access and accountability crisis in Phoenix and across the country in 2014, and continuing to just last week when reports surfaced of potential infectious disease concerns at a troubled VA medical center in Tomah, Wisconsin.

While the committee has an important oversight and investigative responsibility toward VA, as a Federal bureaucracy, VA is all too often charged with policing itself through internal watchdogs like the Office of Medical Inspector and the VA Office of Inspector General. However, despite all of our best efforts, waste, fraud, and abuse still persist and still continue to harm veterans throughout the VA healthcare system.

H.R. 6435 would provide VA regional leadership yet another tool to root out deficiencies within the VA medical facilities while providing VISN directors the ability to work with an experienced, objective entity to assess a given VA medical center's operations and management.

I believe this bill will empower VISN leaders to take a more active role in creating a culture of quality and accountability and lead to the provision of better, safer care to veteran patients.

I am grateful to my friend and colleague Congressman MARKWAYNE

## NAYS—8

Amash  
Brat  
Gosar

Grothman  
Harris  
Massie

Sanford  
Sinema

MULLIN of Oklahoma for sponsoring this legislation, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of this legislation by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Ensuring VA delivers safe and high-quality health care to veterans is an important priority for this committee. This bill will allow Veterans Integrated Service Network directors to contract with civilian accreditation and healthcare evaluation organizations to inspect and investigate VA medical centers. This gives VA another tool to evaluate and improve the quality of care provided at its facilities.

VA medical centers are routinely inspected and accredited by recognized organizations in the healthcare world, such as the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. This bill would allow other organizations to inspect and accredit VA hospitals at VA's discretion.

Since the VA inspector general and Government Accountability Office also routinely conduct investigations, inspections, and audits of VA medical facilities, I would like to emphasize that this bill requires both GAO and the IG to be notified when a VISN chooses to contract with civilian inspection and accreditation organizations.

Coordination of efforts with GAO and the IG will avoid duplication and prevent the waste of taxpayer dollars. I also want to emphasize that this authority should not be used to replace the role of the IG and GAO in conducting investigations, inspections, and evaluations of VA medical facilities.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), who brought this legislation to our committee.

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman-elect ROE for yielding and for his work on the committee. I have no doubt that he will perform admirably in his new role, and I want to extend my appreciation to him and to Chairman MILLER for their leadership in getting this bill to the floor for consideration.

This bill is simple, so I will keep it short. All the bill does is authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to contract with appropriate civilian healthcare accrediting or evaluating groups to investigate the VA medical centers.

Our veterans deserve care equal to the finest civilian hospitals, so let's allow the VA to invite the people who evaluate and accredit those private hospitals to take a look at our VA medical centers when they have problems.

This is a commonsense bill that will help improve the care of our veterans who need us the most. I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this important legislation and to join me in passing H.R. 6435.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, as Mr. MULLIN said, this is a very commonsense piece of legislation.

I worked in hospitals for almost four decades that had joint commission supervision. It is a good way. It is best for patient safety. With that, I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6435.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COMMUNITIES HELPING INVEST THROUGH PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5099) to establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5099

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016" or the "CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016".

#### SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON ACCEPTANCE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF DONATED FACILITIES AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS.

##### (a) PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 8103 and 8104 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary may accept donations of the following property from entities described in paragraph (2):

(A) Real property (including structures and equipment associated therewith)—

(i) that includes a constructed facility; or

(ii) to be used as the site of a facility constructed by the entity.

(B) A facility to be constructed by the entity on real property of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—Entities described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) A State or local authority.

(B) An organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(C) A limited liability corporation.

(D) A private entity.

(E) A donor or donor group.

(F) Any other non-Federal Government entity.

(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may accept not more than five donations of real property and facility improvements under the pilot program and as described in this section.

(b) CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF PROPERTY.—The Secretary may accept the donation of a property described in subsection (a)(1) under the pilot program only if—

(1) the property is—

(A) a property with respect to which funds have been appropriated for a Department facility project; or

(B) a property identified as—

(i) meeting a need of the Department as part of the long-range capital planning process of the Department; and

(ii) the location for a Department facility project that is included on the Strategic Capital Investment Planning process priority list in the most recent budget submitted to Congress by the President pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code; and

(2) an entity described in subsection (a)(2) has entered into or is willing to enter into a formal agreement with the Secretary in accordance with subsection (c) under which the entity agrees to independently donate the real property, improvements, goods, or services, for the Department facility project in an amount acceptable to the Secretary and at no additional cost to the Federal Government.

(c) REQUIREMENT TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept real property and improvements donated under the pilot program by an entity described in subsection (a)(2) only if the entity enters into a formal agreement with the Secretary that provides for—

(A) the donation of real property and improvements (including structures and equipment associated therewith) that includes a constructed facility; or

(B) the construction by the entity of a facility on—

(i) real property and improvements of the Department of Veterans Affairs; or

(ii) real property and improvements donated to the Department by the entity.

(2) CONTENT OF FORMAL AGREEMENTS.—With respect to an entity described in subsection (a)(2) that seeks to enter into a formal agreement under paragraph (1) of this subsection that includes the construction by the entity of a facility, the formal agreement shall provide for the following:

(A) The entity shall conduct all necessary environmental and historic preservation due diligence, shall comply with all local zoning requirements (except for studies and consultations required of the Department under Federal law), and shall obtain all permits required in connection with the construction of the facility.

(B) The entity shall use construction standards required of the Department when designing, repairing, altering, or building the facility, except to the extent the Secretary determines otherwise, as permitted by applicable law.

(C) The entity shall provide the real property, improvements, goods, or services in a manner described in subsection (b)(2) sufficient to complete the construction of the facility, at no additional cost to the Federal Government.

(d) NO PAYMENT OF RENT OR USAGE FEES.—The Secretary may not pay rent, usage fees, or any other amounts to an entity described in subsection (a)(2) or any other entity for