

that everyone deserves a good life through quality education, stable employment, supportive income, and good health.

I am very proud to work with Bucks County's team at the United Way: Marissa Christie, Faith Parkinson, Patricia Winslow Gallagher, Matt Uhler, Danielle Bush, Tim Philpot, Candi Guerrero, Katie Matarazzo, Dan Warvolis, and Pat Miller.

Mr. Speaker, these problem-solvers are making an impact on improving lives and making Bucks County a more prosperous community, and for that, they are deserving of all of our thanks and support.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Lord, our God, thank You for giving us another day.

As they are returning to the Capitol, please be with the Members of this people's House in all their undertakings today. You know them through and through. You know how they relate with one another and know them as the American people do, as the 115th Congress of the United States.

Lord, help them to know You. As ultimate truth, send Your spirit upon them, that You might find a dwelling place among them, so that all Your people can place trust in them as leaders as well as their representatives.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WALZ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 20, 2017, at 2:52 p.m.:

Appointments:
Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on July 20, 2017 at 5:14 p.m., said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits a notice continuing the national emergency with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 115-57)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to

the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011, is to continue in effect beyond July 24, 2017. This notice superseded the notice regarding this topic submitted to the *Federal Register* on July 19, 2017.

The activities of significant transnational criminal organizations have reached such scope and gravity that they threaten the stability of international political and economic systems. Such organizations are increasingly sophisticated and dangerous to the United States; they are increasingly entrenched in the operations of foreign governments and the international financial system, thereby weakening democratic institutions, degrading the rule of law, and undermining economic markets. These organizations facilitate and aggravate violent civil conflicts and increasingly facilitate the activities of other dangerous persons.

The activities of significant transnational criminal organizations continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13581 with respect to transnational criminal organizations.

DONALD J. TRUMP,
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 20, 2017.

RECOGNIZING STEWART ADAIR

(Mr. HURD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HURD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary contributions Mr. Stewart Adair has made on my hometown of Helotes, Texas.

Since first becoming the Walmart store manager in 2013, Mr. Adair has dedicated his professional and personal life to helping the people of Helotes. Stewart and his family have become pillars of the community.

As the store manager, Mr. Adair was responsible for leading hundreds of employees, where he quickly grew to become a role model and mentor to many.

In addition to his commitments to his job and his family, Stewart has spent much of his personal time supporting our Nation's troops. Stewart is well known in Helotes for organizing the annual Turkey for Troops program, which he has helped grow into a thriving charity event.

As many in the community of Helotes know, Stewart was recently diagnosed with cancer.

This past Saturday, I was honored to volunteer my time for a man who has

done so much to help his community. Mr. Adair is a perfect example of a Good Samaritan, and I am proud to recognize all that he has done for our community in Helotes.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S "ART OF THE DEAL" BOOK

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, those who are fair-minded and want to understand President Trump better should read his best-selling book from 30 years ago, which is as timely today as it was then. It is called "The Art of the Deal" and reveals these characteristics.

Donald Trump usually makes decisions quickly based on knowledge, experience, and intuition, rather than waiting for consultants' studies. He is a tough but practical negotiator willing to compromise to achieve a goal. He gets a deal done sooner or later, even if it sometimes takes years.

He is a counterpuncher who doesn't like to start a fight but will give more than he receives. He is loyal to friends who are loyal to him.

Most of the President's actions should be of no surprise to anyone who has read his book. In fact, those who are objective are likely to appreciate him more.

RECOGNIZING GRAND VIEW HEALTH HOSPITAL

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, for more than 100 years, residents of Bucks and Montgomery Counties have trusted Grand View Health hospital with the well-being of their families. They are dedicated toward leading our community to a healthier future.

Following their Community Health Needs Assessment, Grand View Health has identified and prioritized a community health improvement program, which, over the next 3 years, will address health challenges present in their service area.

I am proud of the positive impact that Grand View Health has made in our community. I commend their board of trustees for their outstanding leadership and service to our community. Many thanks to Jeffrey Landis, Mary Anne Poatsy, Mark Schlosser, William Aichele, Jean Keeler, Michael Corrado, Marc Freeman, Nicholas Lindberg, Robert Pritchard, Gregory Shelly, and all the doctors, nurses, staff, and volunteers who make this a success.

Madam Speaker, Grand View Health's commitment to the people it serves reminds us that we are all in this together, and it is never too late to start living a healthy lifestyle.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BONUS TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 114) to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report regarding performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 114

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

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION OF AMOUNTS.

(a) VETERANS CHOICE PROGRAM.—There is authorized to be appropriated, and is appropriated, to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$2,000,000,000 to be deposited in the Veterans Choice Fund under section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(b) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—The amounts appropriated under subsection (a) shall be available for obligation or expenditure without fiscal year limitation.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF PENSION FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS COVERED BY MEDICAID PLANS FOR SERVICES FURNISHED BY NURSING FACILITIES.

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2027".

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT FOR COLLECTION OF FEES FOR HOUSING LOANS GUARANTEED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (iii), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2027"; and

(B) in clause (iv), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2027";

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2027"; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2027";

(3) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2027"; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2027"; and

(4) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2027"; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2027".

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO USE INCOME INFORMATION.

Section 5317(g) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 31, 2027".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 114, as amended, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Veterans Choice Program. This bill would authorize and appropriate \$2 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Choice Fund.

Allowing the Veterans Choice Fund to run dry is not a viable option. The Choice Program has provided critical care to millions of veteran patients.

In March, Secretary Shulkin testified that the expiration of the Choice Program would be a "disaster" for veterans. Just a few weeks ago, the Acting Under Secretary for Health reiterated that sentiment when she testified that veteran wait times would increase if the Choice Program went away.

Congress created the Choice Program in response to a nationwide wait-time scandal in 2014 to increase access to care through VA community providers for veterans who either cannot access care at a VA medical facility within a timely manner or who live far away from the nearest VA medical facility. Since the Choice Program was signed into law almost 3 years ago, it has gone through many growing pains and evolved considerably.

We know from a Government Accountability Office report from earlier this year that most of the veterans who use the Choice Program do so because VA does not offer the service that veterans need.

We also know that veteran demand for care through the Choice Program has never been higher, and, consequently, the remaining money in the Veterans Choice Program will run out in mid August, a few short weeks from now.

We cannot allow that to happen, and with passage of S. 114, as amended today, we won't.

There are allegations that providing more money for the Choice Program is