

Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The bill also includes language that would encourage the creation of private flood insurance markets, while stripping important consumer protections such as the 45 day of cancellation provision that prevents private insurers from cancelling cover Just moments before a devastating storm.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to be clear: I suppose a clean, long-term reauthorization of the FAA's funding authority. However, the underlying bill not only includes a host of extraneous provisions that I could not support, but it was done so without the input of me or any of my Democratic colleagues. If Republicans are serious about maintaining the safest and most complex airspace in the world, they will pass a clean reauthorization that authorizes FAA programs for several years, not several months. We cannot politicize this issue with provisions related to healthcare, or flood insurance, or privatizing our air traffic control services. It is far too important and time is quickly running out.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3823.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2017

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3819) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law 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. 3819

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 “Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2017”.

(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.
- Sec. 3. Scoring of budgetary effects.

TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

- Sec. 101. Extension of authority for collection of copayments for hospital care and nursing home care.
- Sec. 102. Extension of requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities.
- Sec. 103. Extension of authorization of appropriations for assistance and support services for caregivers.

Sec. 104. Extension of authority for recovery from third parties of cost of care and services furnished to veterans with health-plan contracts for non-service-connected disability.

Sec. 105. Extension of authority for pilot program on assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care.

Sec. 106. Extension of authority to make grants to veterans service organizations for transportation of highly rural veterans.

Sec. 107. Extension of pilot program on community-based brain injury rehabilitative care services for veterans with traumatic brain injury.

Sec. 108. Extension of authority for pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service.

Sec. 109. Extension of temporary expansion of payments and allowances for beneficiary travel in connection with veterans receiving care from Vet Centers.

TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO BENEFITS

Sec. 201. Extension of authority for calculating net value of real property at time of foreclosure.

Sec. 202. Extension of authority relating to vendee loans.

Sec. 203. Extension of authority to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses.

TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HOMELESS VETERANS

Sec. 301. Extension of authority for homeless veterans reintegration programs.

Sec. 302. Extension of authority for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration program.

Sec. 303. Extension of authority for referral and counseling services for veterans at risk of homelessness transitioning from certain institutions.

Sec. 304. Extension and modification of authority to provide financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.

Sec. 305. Extension of authority for grant program for homeless veterans with special needs.

Sec. 306. Extension of authority for the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.

Sec. 307. Extension of authority for treatment and rehabilitation services for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans.

TITLE IV—OTHER EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AUTHORITY AND OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 401. Extension of authority for transportation of individuals to and from Department facilities.

Sec. 402. Extension of authority for operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs regional office in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines.

Sec. 403. Extension of authority for monthly assistance allowances under the Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events.

Sec. 404. Extension of requirement to provide reports to Congress regarding equitable relief in the case of administrative error.

Sec. 405. Extension of authorization of appropriations for adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 406. Extension of authority for Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans.

Sec. 407. Extension of authority for temporary expansion of eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance for certain veterans with disabilities causing difficulty ambulating.

Sec. 408. Extension of authority for specially adapted housing assistive technology grant program.

Sec. 409. Extension of authority to guarantee payment of principal and interest on certificates or other securities.

Sec. 410. Extension of authority to enter into agreement with the National Academy of Sciences regarding associations between diseases and exposure to dioxin and other chemical compounds in herbicides.

Sec. 411. Modifications of reductions of reporting fee multipliers.

TITLE V—TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Sec. 501. Technical corrections to Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. SCORING OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTION OF COPAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL CARE AND NURSING HOME CARE.

Section 1710(f)(2)(B) is amended by striking “September 30, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2019”.

SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE NURSING HOME CARE TO CERTAIN VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

Section 1710A(d) is amended by striking “December 31, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2019”.

SEC. 103. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR CAREGIVERS.

Section 1720G(e) is amended—
 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and”;
 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and
 (3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:
 “(5) \$839,828,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 and 2019.”.

SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR RECOVERY FROM THIRD PARTIES OF COST OF CARE AND SERVICES FURNISHED TO VETERANS WITH HEALTH-PLAN CONTRACTS FOR NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.

Section 1729(a)(2)(E) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “October 1, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2019”.

SEC. 105. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM ON ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS RECEIVING HEALTH CARE.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Subsection (e) of section 205 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1144; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2019”.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Subsection (h) of such section is amended by striking “and 2017” and inserting “2017, 2018, and 2019”.

SEC. 106. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS TO VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF HIGHLY RURAL VETERANS.

Section 307(d) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1154; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2019”.

SEC. 107. EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM ON COMMUNITY-BASED BRAIN INJURY REHABILITATIVE CARE SERVICES FOR VETERANS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Subsection (g) of section 1705 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 38 U.S.C. 1710C note) is amended by striking “October 6, 2017” and inserting “January 6, 2018”.

(b) **FINAL REPORT SUBMITTAL DATE.**—Subsection (e)(2)(A) of such section is amended by striking “60 days after the completion of the pilot program” and inserting “December 6, 2017”.

(c) **NOTIFICATION TO PARTICIPANTS IN PROGRAM.**—Not later than December 6, 2017, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify veterans participating in the pilot program under such section regarding a plan for transition of care for such veterans.

SEC. 108. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM ON COUNSELING IN RETREAT SETTINGS FOR WOMEN VETERANS NEWLY SEPARATED FROM SERVICE.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Subsection (d) of section 203 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1143; 38 U.S.C. 1712A note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2019”.

(b) **REPORT SUBMITTAL DATE.**—Subsection (e) of such section is amended by striking “180 days after the completion of the pilot program” and inserting “March 31, 2018”.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Subsection (f) of such section is amended by striking “and 2017” and inserting “2017, 2018, and 2019”.

SEC. 109. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF PAYMENTS AND ALLOWANCES FOR BENEFICIARY TRAVEL IN CONNECTION WITH VETERANS RECEIVING CARE FROM VET CENTERS.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Subsection (a) of section 104 of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-154; 126 Stat. 1169) is amended by striking “a three-year initiative” and inserting “an initiative, to run through September 30, 2018”.

(b) **REPORT SUBMITTAL DATE.**—Subsection (b)(1) of such section is amended by striking

“180 days after the date of the completion of the initiative” and inserting “March 31, 2018”.

TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO BENEFITS

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR CALCULATING NET VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY AT TIME OF FORECLOSURE.

Section 3732(c)(11) is amended by striking “October 1, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2018”.

SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO VENDEE LOANS.

Section 3733(a)(7) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2018”; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “September 30, 2017,” and inserting “September 30, 2018”.

SEC. 203. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH SEVERE INJURIES OR ILLNESSES.

Section 1631(b)(2) of the Wounded Warrior Act (title XVI of Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 458; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2018”.

TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HOMELESS VETERANS

SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.

Section 2021(e)(1)(F) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2018”.

SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS AND HOMELESS VETERANS WITH CHILDREN REINTEGRATION PROGRAM.

Section 2021A(f)(1) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2018”.

SEC. 303. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR REFERRAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR VETERANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS TRANSITIONING FROM CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.

Section 2023(d) is amended by striking “September 30, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2018”.

SEC. 304. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.

Section 2044(e)(1) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph: “(F) \$320,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2019.”

SEC. 305. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

Section 2061(d)(1) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2019”.

SEC. 306. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.

Section 2066(d) is amended by striking “December 31, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2018”.

SEC. 307. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) **GENERAL TREATMENT.**—Section 2031(b) is amended by striking “September 30, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2019”.

(b) **ADDITIONAL SERVICES AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS.**—Section 2033(d) is amended by striking “September 30, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2019”.

TITLE IV—OTHER EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AUTHORITY AND OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 401. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TRANSPORTATION OF INDIVIDUALS TO AND FROM DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.

Section 111A(a)(2) is amended by striking “December 31, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2019”.

SEC. 402. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR OPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGIONAL OFFICE IN MANILA, THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Section 315(b) is amended by striking “September 30, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2018”.

SEC. 403. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR MONTHLY ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCES UNDER THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL VETERANS SPORTS PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS.

Section 322(d)(4) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2019”.

SEC. 404. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE REPORTS TO CONGRESS REGARDING EQUITABLE RELIEF IN THE CASE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR.

Section 503(c) is amended by striking “December 31, 2017” and inserting “December 31, 2018”.

SEC. 405. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

Section 521A is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “2017” and inserting “2019”; and

(2) in subsection (l), by striking “2017” and inserting “2019”.

SEC. 406. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY VETERANS.

Section 544(e) is amended by striking “December 31, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2018”.

SEC. 407. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES CAUSING DIFFICULTY AMBULATING.

Section 2101(a)(4) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2018”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “2017” and inserting “2018”.

SEC. 408. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 2108(g) is amended by striking “September 30, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2018”.

SEC. 409. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO GUARANTEE PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON CERTIFICATES OR OTHER SECURITIES.

Section 3720(h)(2) is amended by striking “December 31, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2018”.

SEC. 410. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REGARDING ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN DISEASES AND EXPOSURE TO DIOXIN AND OTHER CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS IN HERBICIDES.

Section 3(i) of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-4; 38 U.S.C. 1116 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2018”.

SEC. 411. MODIFICATIONS OF REDUCTIONS OF REPORTING FEE MULTIPLIERS.

(a) **THROUGH JULY 31, 2018.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 412 of the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans

Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-315; 38 U.S.C. 3684 note) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “September 25, 2017” and inserting “July 31, 2018”; and

(B) by striking subsection (b).

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The heading for subsection (a) of such section is amended by striking “SEPTEMBER 25, 2017” and inserting “JULY 31, 2018”.

(b) AUGUST 1, 2018, THROUGH JULY 31, 2020.—During the period beginning on August 1, 2018, and ending on July 31, 2020, section 3684(c)(2) of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 304 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-48) shall be applied by substituting “\$15” for “\$16”.

TITLE V—TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

SEC. 501. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO HARRY W. COLMERY VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2017.

(a) USE OF STATE APPROVING AGENCIES FOR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES.—Section 3673(d) is amended by inserting “compliance and” before “risk-based surveys”.

(b) CALCULATION OF MONTHLY HOUSING STIPEND UNDER POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BASED ON LOCATION OF CAMPUS WHERE CLASSES ARE ATTENDED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3313(g)(3)(A)(ii)(I)(aa) is amended by striking “the institution at which the individual is enrolled” and inserting “the campus of the institution of where the individual physically participates in a majority of classes”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to enrollment for a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after August 1, 2018.

(3) ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Subsection (b) of section 107 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-48) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to enrollment for a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after August 1, 2018.”.

(c) DETERMINATION OF MONTHLY HOUSING STIPENDS DURING ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (j) of section 3313 is amended to read as follows:

“(j) DETERMINATION OF MONTHLY HOUSING STIPENDS DURING ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE.—For any month during which an individual who is entitled to a monthly housing stipend under this section is performing active duty service, the Secretary shall determine the amount of such stipend payable to such individual for such month on a pro rata basis for the period of such month during which the individual is not performing active duty service.”.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—Such subsection, as amended by paragraph (1), shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after August 1, 2018.

(d) SPECIAL APPLICATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURE RULE TO RECENTLY ENROLLED INDIVIDUALS.—Subparagraph (B) of section 109(c)(1) of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-48) is amended to read as follows:

“(B) SPECIAL APPLICATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to courses and programs of education discontinued as described in section 3699 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), during the period beginning January 1, 2015, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act, an individual described in clause (ii) who does not transfer credits from such

program of education shall be deemed to be an individual who did not receive such credits, as described in subsection (b)(2) of such section, except that the period for which such individual’s entitlement is not charged shall be the entire period of the individual’s enrollment in the program of education. In carrying out this subparagraph, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, shall establish procedures to determine whether the individual transferred credits to a comparable course or program of education.

“(ii) INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED.—An individual described in this clause is an individual who is enrolled in a course or program of education discontinued as described in clause (i) during the period beginning on the date that is 120 days before the date of such discontinuance and ending on the date of such discontinuance.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 Florida?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3819, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2017.

H.R. 3819 would extend a number of authorities impacting veterans’ benefits, health, and homeless programs. Swift passage of this legislation today would ensure that many programs that veterans, their caregivers, dependents, and survivors rely on continue. We must continue these programs.

Mr. Speaker, the programs include nursing home care, support services for caregivers, transportation, child care assistance, adaptive sports programs, and housing and home loan services, to name just a few. So important. Again, these are not new programs, but they are so very important to our true heroes.

The costs associated with them have been assumed in the House-passed appropriations bill for fiscal year 2018 and 2019 advance appropriation.

One program that has been extended for just 5 additional months, until January 6, 2018, is the assisted living pilot program for veterans with traumatic brain injury. That short extension would allow extra time for the VA to fully transition the veterans currently participating in that program into other existing programs more suitable for their ongoing support and rehabilitation.

H.R. 3819 would also make a number of technical corrections to the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017.

This bill was drafted by and has full bipartisan support of both the majority

and the minority Veterans’ Affairs Committee members of the House and the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3819 today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3819, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2017. I want to thank the gentleman from Florida for his hard work on this, as the entire committee did.

H.R. 3819, as the gentleman said, makes sure that some of the vital programs we have in place to provide for our veterans continue past the end of the fiscal year and continue to help our veterans.

Included in this bill are provisions related to their healthcare, their benefits, homeless veterans, and other related issues.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support extending programs related to the support for caregivers, childcare for certain veterans receiving healthcare, and the pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service.

It also has provisions to extend the authority related to rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of our Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses, homeless veterans reintegration programs, homeless women veterans, and homeless veterans with children, and providing housing assistance and counseling to homeless and at-risk veterans.

Also included are extensions of authority for programs to help disabled veterans as well as authority to enter into agreements with the National Academy of Sciences to review the research on links between diseases and dioxin exposure. This is a critical step in creating any new Agent Orange presumptions that still may be there. Both of these provisions are critical in helping our aging Vietnam veterans as well, as we move forward.

The final section contains, as the gentleman said, a technical fix to the Forever GI Bill, an important piece of legislation once again crafted in a bipartisan manner with the help of our veterans service organizations and passed earlier this year. The correction will simply help make VA implement the law correctly, and all sides agree it must become law as quickly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, in short, this bill that both the majority and the minority support, we all agree it must be signed into law as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I urge my fellow Members to support its passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1745

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST), a true American hero and a combat veteran.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Florida for the time.

Without action from Congress, the authority for the VA Secretary to carry out many essential activities that are critical to helping our veterans will expire.

I get my healthcare from the VA. I get it alongside a great number of my best friends in life, and I can tell you, my favorite part about going to the VA in West Palm Beach, Florida, is when I meet one of my fellow veterans in the lobby. It might be a veteran from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf war, Iraq, or Afghanistan, and the first thing that we do with one another is we jab at one another about the different branch that the other person served in: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard. But after that, it gets back to the very serious work that we are all at the VA to have completed.

The heroic men and women that I have had the honor of fighting alongside have earned—they have earned; that is the most important word, they have earned—the very best care that our country has to offer. But without this immediate action from Congress, veterans could lose those benefits—healthcare, support for the homeless, and many other provisions—and this is absolutely unacceptable.

This bill, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2017, does everything that was already mentioned, which is extremely important. It extends the number of expiring authorities to include nursing home support, support for our caregivers, support for transportation, childcare assistance, adaptive sports programs, housing and home loan services.

This legislation also makes some important technical changes that will aid the VA's implementation of the Forever GI Bill, a critical priority for ensuring that as many veterans as possible can use that important program.

This is the definition of must-pass legislation. I urge my colleagues to pass this commonsense legislation.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for his strong words, for his commitment and service to this country, and I appreciate his support on this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), my good friend, the vice ranking member of the full Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 3819, which reauthorizes several essential veterans' programs that support the men and women who have served our Nation. These programs include assistance and support services for caregivers who so often make profound sacrifices to support their loved ones, grants to our vital veterans service organizations so they can continue providing transportation for rural veterans to help connect them with the services they need, and programs to reintegrate homeless

veterans which offer opportunities for meaningful employment and address the complex challenges they face.

This bill reauthorizes specialized counseling for women veterans. This is particularly important in light of the stunning VA report released this month which showed that female veterans are six times more likely to die by suicide than any other women.

These programs are fundamental to the well-being of our veterans and their families, and they are a reflection of our gratitude to those who serve.

In addition, this legislation makes important technical changes that will allow us to follow through on the promises of the new GI Bill, which we passed unanimously earlier this year. Specifically, H.R. 3819 allows us to correct the perverse incentives that discourage veterans from attending local community colleges and universities, which is a provision I worked on with my Republican colleague, Congressman PAUL COOK.

It also allows for the restoration of benefits for veterans left stranded by the abrupt closure of for-profit colleges, which I championed with Republican LUKE MESSER.

After the closures of ITT Tech and Corinthian Colleges, student veterans in my district and across the country were left with nontransferable credits, depleted benefits, and none of the job opportunities that they were promised. By restoring their tuition and housing benefits, we are restoring a measure of justice for these veterans and restoring their opportunity to get the education they deserve and earned.

Taken together, the reauthorization of vital programs and the technical fixes included in this bill should earn the support of every Member.

I want to thank Chairman ROE, Ranking Member WALZ, and my colleagues on the Veterans' Affairs Committee for ensuring that veterans can continue to rely on these critical programs, and I am once again grateful for the bipartisanship that has defined our work on behalf of America's veterans.

In closing, I want to note that yesterday was Gold Star Mothers and Families Day, and while today we are taking action to support our veterans, we must also remember the men and women who never made it home.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage all of my colleagues to support this must-pass legislation.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS), who is also a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act. This much-needed legislation will drastically increase access to healthcare and support services for our veterans.

Most importantly, this bill will help ensure continued access to proven programs to address veterans' homeless-

ness, healthcare, and benefits. It also includes provisions to assist veteran caregivers, husbands, wives, parents, and children of veterans who righteously dedicate themselves to the care of their loved ones.

Veterans and their families have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, and we must uphold our promises to them. For too long, Congress has ignored the needs of today's veteran population. It is past time we focus on supporting our veterans, no matter when they served. The Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act addresses the priorities of today's population and ensures that the money follows the veterans.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and a cosponsor of several of the stand-alone bills included in this package, I am proud to see the committee and the House of Representatives come together on behalf of these patriotic Americans who risked their lives for our safety.

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

I want to thank the gentleman from Louisiana for his support and work on the committee.

Once again, the old saying is you shouldn't get a pat on the back for what you are supposed to do; but around here, it is harder than you might think, and I am incredibly grateful and proud.

I want to thank the majority staff for their work on this piece of legislation, always including the minority staff, always including us in decisions, so that when we get to the floor, we bring a piece of bipartisan legislation that we can all support. It is must-pass legislation, and that is why it will pass today.

I thank the gentleman from Florida for his continued leadership. We have been on this committee for over a decade together, and it seems like it is always that way, so I am grateful for that, grateful we are able to move this forward.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3819.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for his leadership and working in a bipartisan fashion always, and we always put our veterans first, so I appreciate that very much.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3819.

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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2824, INCREASING OPPORTUNITY AND SUCCESS FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS THROUGH EVIDENCE-BASED HOME VISITING ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2792, CONTROL UNLAWFUL FUGITIVE FELONS ACT OF 2017; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. BURGESS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-331) on the resolution (H. Res. 533) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2824) to amend title V of the Social Security Act to extend the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2792) to amend the Social Security Act to make certain revisions to provisions limiting payment of benefits to fugitive felons under titles II, VIII, and XVI of the Social Security Act; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3823, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2061, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

DISASTER TAX RELIEF AND AIRPORT AND AIRWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3823) to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to provide

disaster tax relief, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 245, nays 171, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 530]

YEAS—245

Allen	Gowdy	Newhouse
Amodei	Graves (GA)	Noem
Arrington	Graves (MO)	Norman
Babin	Green, Al	Nunes
Bacon	Green, Gene	O'Halleran
Banks (IN)	Griffith	Olson
Barletta	Guthrie	Palazzo
Barr	Handel	Palmer
Barton	Harper	Paulsen
Bera	Harris	Pearce
Bergman	Hartzler	Perry
Biggs	Hensarling	Peters
Bilirakis	Herrera Beutler	Peterson
Bishop (UT)	Hice, Jody B.	Pittenger
Black	Higgins (LA)	Poe (TX)
Blackburn	Hill	Poliquin
Blum	Holding	Posey
Bost	Hollingsworth	Ratcliffe
Brady (TX)	Hudson	Reed
Brat	Huizenga	Reichert
Brooks (AL)	Hultgren	Renacci
Brooks (IN)	Hunter	Rice (SC)
Buchanan	Hurd	Roby
Buck	Issa	Roe (TN)
Bucshon	Jackson Lee	Rogers (AL)
Budd	Jenkins (KS)	Rogers (KY)
Burgess	Jenkins (WV)	Rokita
Byrne	Johnson (LA)	Rooney, Francis
Calvert	Johnson (OH)	Rooney, Thomas J.
Carbajal	Jordan	Rosen
Carter (GA)	Joyce (OH)	Roskam
Carter (TX)	Katko	Ross
Chabot	Kelly (MS)	Rothfus
Cheney	Kelly (PA)	Rouzer
Coffman	Kihuen	Royce (CA)
Cole	King (IA)	Ruiz
Collins (GA)	King (NY)	Russell
Collins (NY)	Kinzinger	Rutherford
Comer	Knight	Schneider
Comstock	Kuster (NH)	Schweikert
Conaway	Kustoff (TN)	Scott, Austin
Connolly	Labrador	Sessions
Cook	LaHood	Shea-Porter
Costa	LaMalfa	Shuster
Costello (PA)	Lamborn	Simpson
Cramer	Lance	Sinema
Crawford	Latta	Smith (MO)
Crist	Lawson (FL)	Smith (NE)
Cuellar	Lewis (MN)	Smith (NJ)
Culberson	Lipinski	Smith (TX)
Curbeo (FL)	LoBiondo	Smucker
Davidson	Loebbsack	Stefanik
Davis, Rodney	Long	Stewart
Denham	Loudermillk	Stivers
Dent	Love	Suozi
DeSantis	Lucas	Taylor
DesJarlais	Luetkemeyer	Tenney
Diaz-Balart	MacArthur	Thompson (PA)
Donovan	Maloney, Sean	Thornberry
Duncan (SC)	Marchant	Tipton
Duncan (TN)	Marino	Trott
Dunn	Marshall	Turner
Emmer	Massie	Upton
Farenthold	Mast	Valadao
Faso	McCarthy	Wagner
Ferguson	McCaul	Walberg
Fitzpatrick	McClintock	Walden
Fleischmann	McHenry	Walker
Fortenberry	McKinley	Walorski
Fox	McMorris	Walters, Mimi
Franks (AZ)	Rodgers	Weber (TX)
Frelinghuysen	McSally	Webster (FL)
Gaetz	Meadows	Wenstrup
Gallagher	Meehan	Westerman
Garrett	Messer	Williams
Gianforte	Mitchell	Wilson (SC)
Gibbs	Moolenaar	Wittman
Gohmert	Mooney (WV)	Womack
Gonzalez (TX)	Mullin	
Goodlatte	Murphy (FL)	
Gosar	Murphy (PA)	

Woodall	Yoho	Young (IA)
Yoder	Young (AK)	Zeldin

NAYS—171

Abraham	Foster	Norcross
Adams	Frankel (FL)	O'Rourke
Aguilar	Gallego	Pallone
Amash	Garamendi	Panetta
Barragan	Gomez	Pascarella
Bass	Gottheimer	Payne
Beatty	Graves (LA)	Perlosi
Beyer	Grijalva	Perlmutter
Bishop (GA)	Grothman	Pingree
Blumenauer	Gutiérrez	Pocan
Bonamici	Hastings	Polis
Boyle, Brendan F.	Heck	Price (NC)
Brady (PA)	Higgins (NY)	Quigley
Brown (MD)	Himes	Raskin
Brownley (CA)	Hoyer	Rice (NY)
Bustos	Huffman	Richmond
Butterfield	Jayapal	Roybal-Allard
Capuano	Jeffries	Ruppersberger
Cárdenas	Johnson (GA)	Rush
Carson (IN)	Johnson, E. B.	Ryan (OH)
Cartwright	Jones	Sánchez
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Sanford
Castro (TX)	Keating	Sarbanes
Chu, Judy	Kelly (IL)	Schakowsky
Ciulline	Kennedy	Schiff
Clark (MA)	Khanna	Schrader
Clarke (NY)	Kildee	Scott (VA)
Clay	Kilmer	Scott, David
Cleaver	Kind	Sensenbrenner
Clyburn	Krishnamoorthi	Serrano
Cohen	Langevin	Sewell (AL)
Conyers	Larsen (WA)	Sherman
Cooper	Larson (CT)	Sires
Correa	Lawrence	Slaughter
Courtney	Lee	Smith (WA)
Crowley	Levin	Soto
Cummings	Lewis (GA)	Speier
Davis (CA)	Lien, Ted	Swalwell (CA)
Davis, Danny	Lofgren	Takano
DeFazio	Lowenthal	Thompson (CA)
DeGette	Lowe	Thompson (MS)
Delaney	Lujan Grisham, M.	Titus
DeLauro	Lujan, Ben Ray	Tonko
DelBene	Lynch	Torres
Demings	Maloney,	Tsongas
DeSaulnier	Carolyn B.	Vargas
Deutch	Matsui	Veasey
Dingell	McCollum	Vela
Doggett	McEachin	Velázquez
Doyle, Michael F.	McGovern	Vislosky
Ellison	McNerney	Walz
Engel	Meeks	Wasserman
Eshoo	Meng	Schultz
Espallat	Moore	Waters, Maxine
Estes (KS)	Moulton	Watson Coleman
Esty (CT)	Nadler	Welch
Evans	Neal	Wilson (FL)
	Nolan	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—17

Aderholt	Fudge	Rohrabacher
Bishop (MI)	Gabbard	Ros-Lehtinen
Blunt Rochester	Granger	Scalise
Bridenstine	Hanabusa	Shimkus
Duffy	Johnson, Sam	Tiberi
Flores	Napolitano	

□ 1852

Ms. BASS and Mrs. DAVIS of California changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. COSTA changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2061) to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.