

and women who find themselves in this situation. This is one of them where you can access job training so you can get a meaningful job and take care of yourself. Actually, I think this program and the other one end up paying for themselves over time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage my colleagues to support this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4451, Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2017.

H.R. 4451 proposes an amendment to Title 38 of the United States Code to provide for a five-year extension to homeless veterans reintegration programs and to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under such programs.

This bill includes the reauthorization of reintegration programs among those for whom job training, counseling, and placement services are to be provided to expedite their reintegration into the labor force.

These services provided to homeless veterans include the VA supported housing program, assistance under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996, transitioning from being incarcerated, and participating in the VA's rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention program.

Mr. Speaker, our United States veterans bravely put their lives on the line to defend our freedoms and to keep our nation safe.

Without the brave efforts of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and Coast Guardsmen and women and their families, our country would not live so freely.

Homelessness among the American veteran population is on the rise in the United States and we must be proactive in giving back to those who have given so much to us.

We as a nation have a responsibility to our veterans to provide programs that aid in their reintegration back into the labor force.

Nearly 230,000 veterans and their families have been able to come back from homeless and find permanent homes since 2010.

By passing H.R. 4451, homeless veterans will receive assistance to enhance their quality of life and community integration.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 4451.

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. 4451, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. 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.

bill (H.R. 4334) to provide for certain reporting requirements relating to medical care for women veterans provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and through contracts entered into by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with non-Department medical providers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4334

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 "Improving Oversight of Women Veterans' Care Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT ON VETERAN ACCESS TO COVERED SEX-SPECIFIC SERVICES UNDER COMMUNITY CARE CONTRACTS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives an annual report on the access of women veterans to covered sex-specific medical care under contracts with non-Department medical providers entered into by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the provision of hospital care or medical services to veterans eligible for enrollment in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs maintained under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code. Such report shall include data and performance measures for the availability of covered sex-specific medical care, including—

(1) the average wait time between the veteran's preferred appointment date and the date on which the appointment is completed;

(2) driving time required for veterans to attend appointments; and

(3) reasons why appointments could not be scheduled with non-Department medical providers.

(b) SUNSET.—The requirement to submit a report under this section shall terminate on the date that is seven years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) COVERED SEX-SPECIFIC MEDICAL CARE.—In this section, the term "covered sex-specific medical care" means mammography, maternity care, and gynecological care.

SEC. 3. REPORTING ON VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION ENVIRONMENT OF CARE STANDARDS FOR WOMEN VETERANS.

(a) MEDICAL FACILITY REPORTING.—Each medical facility of the Department shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs a quarterly report on the compliance and non-compliance of the facility with the environment of care standards for women veterans. Each such report shall include the name of each person associated with such facility who is responsible for such compliance and the specific role or responsibility assigned to each such person.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the plan of the Secretary to strengthen the environment of care standards for women veterans at Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities. Such report shall include—

(1) a description of the process established to verify that noncompliance information reported under subsection (a) is accurate and complete; and

(2) a description of the method by which the Secretary will—

(A) ensure that all patient care areas of each Department medical facility are inspected as required; and

(B) expand the list of items that facility staff inspect for compliance to align with the women's health handbook of the Veterans Health Administration.

(c) SUNSET.—The requirement to submit a report under this section shall terminate on the date that is seven years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) ENVIRONMENT OF CARE STANDARDS FOR WOMEN VETERANS.—In this section, the term "environment of care standards for women veterans" has the meaning given that term in Veterans Health Administration Directive 1330.01(1).

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. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 4334, as amended.

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.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4334, as amended, Improving Oversight of Women Veterans' Care Act of 2018.

While VA has vastly improved its capacity to care for gender-specific needs of women veterans, many are still referred to the community when VA cannot provide the appropriate services.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the House overwhelmingly approved the VA MISSION Act by a vote of 347-70. The MISSION Act will, among other things, improve the ability for eligible veterans to seek care from community providers when VA cannot meet strict access standards.

With more veterans becoming eligible to seek care in the community, it is incumbent upon us as members of the House VA Committee to provide oversight over the care delivered within the community as well.

This bill, offered by my friend and fellow committee member from California (Mr. CORREA), would help us do just that. H.R. 4334 would require VA medical centers to report to the Secretary on the compliance of contracted community providers with standards of care for women veterans, as established by VA.

The Secretary would also be required to report to Congress on the accessibility of gender-specific medical care for women with community providers, as well as to develop a plan to strengthen standards of care within the facilities.

Mr. Speaker, as we await Senate passage of the VA MISSION Act, I urge

IMPROVING OVERSIGHT OF WOMEN VETERANS' CARE ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

my colleagues to support this complementary piece of legislation, H.R. 4334, as amended, Improving Oversight of Women Veterans' Care Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of Congressman CORREA's and Chairman ROE's bill, H.R. 4334, the Improving Oversight of Women Veterans' Care Act.

The gentleman from California has proven over the course of his time in Congress that he is a dedicated advocate for our fastest growing population of veterans: female veterans. His experience working on behalf of veterans in the State of California in the legislature has translated into an informed compassion that has earned the respect of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4334 does require VA to exercise proper oversight of community care providers it contracts with in order to provide sex-specific healthcare to women when its facilities do not have the equipment or the specialists necessary to care for them.

The latest study by the RAND Corporation confirms that VA delivers superior healthcare to veterans, when compared to the private sector. Previous independent studies confirm this.

For this reason, VA should better monitor the quality of care received by women in the community, and this bill would require that careful monitoring so that women veterans receive high-quality care.

VA should always remain at the center of managing veterans' healthcare. And managing the care veterans receive in the community by only contracting with high-quality providers with the competence to provide treatment to veterans is a major part of ensuring that they receive the highest quality care.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA), the chief author of this bill and a good friend to veterans across the country.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bipartisan legislation, H.R. 4334, the Improving Oversight of Women Veterans' Care Act.

Women are the fastest growing cohort of veterans. There are currently 2 million women veterans in the United States and Puerto Rico, almost 10 percent of the overall veteran population.

According to some projections, women veterans are expected to grow to represent 15 percent of all veterans by 2030. Therefore, it is important that we ensure that women veterans receive quality care in a safe and dignified environment, as well as in a timely manner, in and outside the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Specifically, this bill will require an annual report on veteran access to gender-specific care under community care

contracts and quarterly reports on environment of care standards for women veterans.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my colleague and friend, Ranking Member WALZ, and Health Subcommittee Ranking Member BROWNLEY for the support of this legislation. I thank Chairman ROE as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4334.

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

I wholeheartedly agree with Mr. CORREA's legislation. I, too, was, an OB/GYN physician who saw VA patients. I would like to think that Mr. CORREA had all these ideas himself, but I have had the opportunity to find out that he definitely married above himself. His wife is an OB/GYN, so I think he probably got most of those ideas from her.

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

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY), a champion of veterans—a champion in many areas—and on this issue of treating our female veterans with the dignity, respect, and services that they have earned.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4334, the Improving Oversight of Women Veterans' Care Act.

I want to thank my colleague on the committee, the gentleman from California, for introducing this important legislation to improve the care we deliver for women veterans.

During my time on this committee, I have made it a special priority to ensure women veterans have access to high-quality, gender-specific care in a safe and welcoming environment. This bill will advance that goal in two important ways.

First, it requires the VA to practice additional oversight on the community care providers that the VA contracts with and report on the access women veterans have to gender-specific medical care in the community. This is especially timely, as the House recently passed a bipartisan update to the VA's community care programs. As we stand up the new community care program, we need to do a better job tracking the quality of care provided to women veterans.

Second, this bill requires the VA to report to Congress on their compliance with environment of care standards for women veterans.

Too often, we have heard reports of women veterans who experience issues at VA clinics. A VA Inspector General's report last year found that up to 20 percent of VA clinics did not meet the VA's own requirements for protecting the privacy of women veterans. This is unacceptable. We need to ensure that women veterans are well served, no matter where they get their

care, and this bill will help us get closer to that goal.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill. I thank the gentleman from California for his efforts.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I would certainly encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I also concur with my colleague: I urge support of H.R. 4334. I just want to say, right before Memorial Day, it is obviously next week, and many people will go home to picnics and families. We have just heard this afternoon on the House floor the sacrifice of many, many of our veterans and really amazing people that live in our country.

In the past week, the Veterans' Affairs Committee—and I want to thank members on both sides of the aisle—have put together 15 bills: one was a major bill, the VA MISSION Act, which will be taken up by the Senate this week, and 14 bills this afternoon to improve both the care and services provided to our Nation's heroes.

For me, it is a true privilege to get up every day and come to this House, to this body, the U.S. House of Representatives, and to advocate for those men and women that I have so much respect for.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy Memorial Day to everyone, and I encourage everyone to vote for this today.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4334, the Improving Oversight of Women Veterans' Care Act of 2017.

H.R. 4334 provides for certain reporting requirements relating to medical care for women veterans provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and through contracts entered into by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with non-Department medical providers.

By passing this bill ensuring these requirements, we are ensuring equitable attention to health care for veteran men and women.

Such requirements include an annual report to Congress on veteran access to covered sex-specific services such as mammography, maternity care, and gynecological care under community care contracts.

Our United States veterans bravely put their lives on the line to defend our freedoms and to keep our nation safe.

I want to thank all of our armed servicemen and women for their selfless dedication to our nation.

The debt that we owe to them is immeasurable because their sacrifices, and those of their families, are our freedom's foundation.

Mr. Speaker, of the nation's 21.6 million brave veterans, more than 2 million are women.

Further, 20 percent of veterans who have served on active duty since September 2001 are women.

Male and female veterans alike deserve access to health care, and this bill will ensure that discrepancies in care among male and female veterans can be identified and addressed.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 4334.

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. 4334, 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.

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 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. BOST) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

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. 4830, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 4451, by the yeas and nays; and

H.R. 3832, by the yeas and nays.

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

SERVICEMEMBERS IMPROVED TRANSITION THROUGH REFORMS FOR ENSURING PROGRESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4830) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval of any course of education for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs unless the educational institution providing the course permits individuals to attend or participate in courses pending payment by Department, and for other purposes, as amended, 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. DUNN)

that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 382, nays 0, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 207]

YEAS—382

Abraham	Delaney	Kelly (MS)
Adams	DeBene	Kelly (PA)
Aderholt	Demings	Kennedy
Aguilar	Denham	Khanna
Allen	DeSaulnier	Kihuen
Amash	Diaz-Balart	Kildee
Amodei	Dingell	Kilmer
Arrington	Doggett	Kind
Babin	Donovan	King (IA)
Bacon	Duffy	King (NY)
Banks (IN)	Duncan (SC)	Knight
Barletta	Duncan (TN)	Krishnamoorthi
Barr	Dunn	Kuster (NH)
Barragán	Ellison	Kustoff (TN)
Barton	Emmer	Labrador
Bass	Engel	LaHood
Beatty	Eshoo	LaMalfa
Bera	Españillat	Lamb
Bergman	Estes (KS)	Lamborn
Beyer	Esty (CT)	Lance
Biggs	Evans	Langevin
Bilirakis	Faso	Larson (CT)
Bishop (GA)	Ferguson	Latta
Bishop (MI)	Fitzpatrick	Lawrence
Bishop (UT)	Fleischmann	Lawson (FL)
Blackburn	Flores	Lee
Blumenauer	Fortenberry	Lesko
Blunt Rochester	Foster	Levin
Bonamici	Fox	Lewis (MN)
Bost	Frankel (FL)	Lieu, Ted
Boyle, Brendan	Fudge	Lipinski
F.	Gaetz	LoBiondo
Brady (TX)	Gallagher	Lofgren
Brat	Gallgo	Long
Brooks (AL)	Garamendi	Loudermilk
Brooks (IN)	Garrett	Love
Brownley (CA)	Gianforte	Lowenthal
Buck	Gibbs	Lowe
Bucshon	Gohmert	Lucas
Budd	Gomez	Luetkemeyer
Burgess	Gonzalez (TX)	Luján, Ben Ray
Bustos	Goodlatte	Lynch
Butterfield	Gosar	MacArthur
Byrne	Gottheimer	Maloney
Calvert	Granger	Carolyn B.
Capuano	Graves (LA)	Maloney, Sean
Carbajal	Graves (MO)	Marchant
Cárdenas	Green, Al	Marino
Carson (IN)	Griffith	Marshall
Carter (GA)	Grijalva	Masie
Carter (TX)	Grothman	Mast
Cartwright	Guthrie	Matsui
Castro (TX)	Hanabusa	McCarthy
Chabot	Handel	McCauley
Cheney	Harper	McClintock
Chu, Judy	Harris	McCollum
Clark (MA)	Hastings	McEachin
Clarke (NY)	Heck	McGovern
Clay	Hensarling	McHenry
Cleaver	Herrera Beutler	McKinley
Clyburn	Hice, Jody B.	McMorris
Coffman	Higgins (NY)	Rodgers
Cohen	Hill	McNerney
Cole	Himes	Meadows
Collins (GA)	Holding	Meeks
Collins (NY)	Hollingsworth	Meng
Comer	Hoyer	Messer
Comstock	Hudson	Mitchell
Conaway	Huffman	Moolenaar
Connolly	Huizenga	Mooney (WV)
Cook	Hultgren	Moore
Cooper	Hunter	Moulton
Correa	Hurd	Mullin
Costa	Issa	Murphy (FL)
Costello (PA)	Jackson Lee	Nadler
Courtney	Jayapal	Napolitano
Cramer	Jeffries	Neal
Crawford	Jenkins (KS)	Newhouse
Crist	Jenkins (WV)	Noem
Crowley	Johnson (GA)	Nolan
Cuellar	Johnson (LA)	Norcross
Culberson	Johnson (OH)	Norman
Curbelo (FL)	Johnson, E. B.	Nunes
Curtis	Johnson, Sam	O'Halleran
Davidson	Jones	Palazzo
Davis (CA)	Jordan	Pallone
Davis, Danny	Joyce (OH)	Palmer
Davis, Rodney	Kaptur	Panetta
DeFazio	Katko	Pascrell
DeGette	Keating	Paulsen

Payne	Rutherford	Thompson (PA)
Pelosi	Ryan (OH)	Tipton
Perlmutter	Sanchez	Titus
Perry	Sanford	Tonko
Peters	Sarbanes	Torres
Peterson	Scalise	Trott
Pingree	Schakowsky	Upton
Pittenger	Schiff	Valadao
Pocan	Schneider	Veasey
Poliquin	Schrader	Vela
Polis	Schweikert	Velázquez
Posey	Scott (VA)	Visclosky
Price (NC)	Scott, Austin	Wagner
Quigley	Scott, David	Walberg
Raskin	Sensenbrenner	Walden
Ratcliffe	Serrano	Walker
Reed	Sewell (AL)	Walorski
Reichert	Shea-Porter	Walters, Mimi
Renacci	Sherman	Walz
Rice (NY)	Shimkus	Wasserman
Rice (SC)	Shuster	Schultz
Richmond	Simpson	Waters, Maxine
Roby	Sinema	Watson Coleman
Roe (TN)	Smith (MO)	Weber (TX)
Rogers (AL)	Smith (NE)	Webster (FL)
Rokita	Smith (NJ)	Welch
Rooney, Francis	Smith (TX)	Wenstrup
Rooney, Thomas	Smith (WA)	Williams
J.	Smucker	Wilson (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen	Soto	Wilson (SC)
Rosen	Stefanik	Wittman
Roskam	Stewart	Womack
Rothfus	Stivers	Woodall
Rouzer	Suozi	Yarmuth
Roybal-Allard	Swalwell (CA)	Yoder
Royce (CA)	Takano	Yoho
Ruiz	Taylor	Young (AK)
Ruppersberger	Tenney	Young (IA)
Russell	Thompson (CA)	Zeldin

NOT VOTING—45

Black	Gowdy	Pearce
Blum	Graves (GA)	Poe (TX)
Brady (PA)	Green, Gene	Rogers (KY)
Brown (MD)	Gutiérrez	Rohrabacher
Buchanan	Hartzler	Ross
Castor (FL)	Higgins (LA)	Rush
Ciçilline	Kelly (IL)	Sessions
Cummings	Kinzing	Sires
DeLauro	Larsen (WA)	Speier
DeSantis	Lewis (GA)	Thompson (MS)
DesJarlais	Loebach	Thornberry
Deutch	Lujan Grisham,	Tsongas
Doyle, Michael	M.	Turner
F.	McSally	Vargas
Frelinghuysen	O'Rourke	Westerman
Gabbard	Olson	

□ 1856

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF SCHOOL SHOOTING IN SANTE FE, TEXAS

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite the entire Texas delegation to be up here with me, and if you are a Member from a district that has had a school shooting, would you please come stand with us.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday morning, at 7:30, evil reared its ugly head in a little community, what I call a salt-of-the-Earth community, Santa Fe, Texas, and 10 people tragically lost their lives.

I would ask all Members to please stand.

We lost two teachers on that day: Cynthia Tisdale and Glenda Ann Perkins. We lost students Kimberly