

enabling them to live their lives to the fullest.

She spent her birthday this year opening birthday greetings from her family living all over the world, including Hong Kong, Fiji, London, Paris, Costa Rica, South Korea, and, of course, Nebraska.

Born on June 11, 1914, she begins each day by thanking God for giving her another day, as we all should.

Please join me in congratulating Margaret on her 105th birthday.

ELECTION REFORM FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition of H.R. 1, legislation that was introduced by the Democratic leadership that they claim is for the people.

Let me be clear: There are some voting and election reforms where I believe Republicans and Democrats can find common ground; however, H.R. 1 abuses taxpayer dollars, criminalizes free speech, and encourages voting irregularities. I cannot support it in its current form.

One of the most egregious provisions in H.R. 1 creates a 6-to-1 government match to small donor campaign contributions up to \$200. This means for every \$200 that a political candidate receives, the Federal Government, with your tax dollars, is giving \$1,200 to a politician's campaign.

Since when does the Federal Government become a congressional candidate's ATM?

This is only one example of how H.R. 1 legislation is not designed to serve the people but to serve the Democratic majority.

This House should work in a real bipartisan fashion to create election reform that the American people deserve, and I am willing and ready whenever my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are willing and ready to talk.

VETERANS' ACCESS TO CHILD CARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCEACHIN). Pursuant to House Resolution 105 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 840.

Will the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) kindly take the chair.

□ 0915

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 840) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Vet-

erans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, with Mr. SABLAN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on February 7, 2019, amendment No. 11, printed in House Report 116-6, offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in House Report 116-6.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, I rise as the designee for the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ALLRED).

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, after line 24, insert the following:

“(c) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall perform outreach to inform eligible veterans of the child care assistance available under this section.”

Page 2, line 25, strike “(c)” and insert “(d)”.

Add at the end the following:

(c) PUBLIC NOTICE.—After the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall make publicly available on a Department website notice of the child care assistance benefit under section 1730D of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a). Such notice shall be easily accessible and visible and shall include a description of the expanded and cost-free child care assistance for veterans, eligibility requirements, and any additional information the Secretary determines necessary.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer and speak in support of the amendment by my colleagues, Congressman ALLRED from Texas and Congresswoman TORRES from California.

Our amendment directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to notify veterans of the expanded, cost-free childcare services in this bill, and perform outreach to veterans and their families.

Each of us have heard from the women and men who have served and sacrificed in uniform about the challenges that come from seeking access to the benefits that veterans have earned.

Last year, at a veterans' roundtable in Woodland Park, I heard from women veterans that it is not enough for Congress to enact a new provision and think our job is done. We must direct the VA to find the veterans who need help and make sure they know and fully utilize these services.

This straightforward amendment requires the VA Secretary to provide public notification on VA.gov about the program, and to perform outreach to inform eligible veterans. The VA has

significant and specialized resources for our veterans. Veterans in my district rely on services at the Morristown VA Outpatient Clinic as well as nearby Lyons and East Orange facilities.

I had the opportunity to visit the Morristown Clinic last week and speak with caregivers and patients at the facility.

I want every veteran, including the more than 25,000 veterans in New Jersey's 11th Congressional District to know that these VA facilities are there for them. These specialized treatment facilities are part of systems worth strengthening and saving.

Mr. Chairman, we must make sure that childcare resources reach their intended recipients as we work to improve care for our veteran community. Only then will we see veterans coming forward to seek counseling and other medical services, secure in the knowledge that their children have a safe place during their appointment.

Simply put, this important childcare program will not work as intended or have the reach that it could without informing our servicemen and -women that it exists in the first place.

I thank the gentleman from Texas for this amendment, and I wish him and his wife—who is from Montclair, New Jersey—well as they welcome their first child.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Representatives ALLRED, SHERRILL, and TORRES' amendment that would require the VA to ensure that eligible veterans are made aware of childcare assistance available to them through this program via outreach and publicly available information made easily accessible on VA's website.

This program would be no good to any veteran if they don't know that it exists and could potentially serve them. This is a commonsense proposition and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

On a related note, I understand that Representative ALLRED recently left D.C. to return to Dallas for the birth of his son, which is further proof of how disruptive children can be to a working parent's schedule and why this bill is so needed.

I wish Congressman ALLRED and his family my hearty congratulations and send them my best wishes during this joyous occasion.

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from

California (Mr. TAKANO), the chairman of the committee.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I support this amendment because we want every veteran who may be eligible to receive no-cost childcare to be able to access it. If veterans don't know that they may be eligible to place their child in childcare while they attend their healthcare appointments, they may mistakenly think they will have to miss their healthcare appointments to care for their children.

When veterans are not aware of the healthcare benefits available to them, or don't know where or who to turn to for help, the result can sometimes be fatal.

When 20 veterans and servicemembers commit suicide every day in this country, and the VA under this administration only spent \$57,000 last year out of the \$6.2 million set aside for suicide prevention outreach, that is less than 1 percent. The administration's lack of commitment shows.

As VA's top clinical priority, we cannot allow VA to continue to fail in its duty to notify veterans of VA's mental health and suicide prevention services, and that is why I support this amendment.

If VA is not mandated by Congress to notify and conduct outreach to veterans, it won't do it. Many veterans who would benefit from cost-free childcare won't know it exists.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I would also like to quickly add that Congressman ALLRED, a new member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, is expecting his first child any day now, so it is very appropriate that we are debating a bill today that will help so many veterans who are parents of young children.

I thank both Congresswoman SHERRILL and Congressman ALLRED for offering this amendment, and if it is adopted, this committee will ensure VA conducts outreach and notifies veterans of their childcare benefits.

Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to add that I hope that the VA will do outreach with groups like Welcome Home Vets of New Jersey.

I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gen-

tlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MS. MOORE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in House Report 116-6.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following new section: **SEC. 3. REPORT REQUIRED.**

(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Beginning in the first fiscal year following the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit, as part of the annual budget request document for the Department of Veterans Affairs, a report regarding eligible veterans who received child care assistance under section 2 during the immediately preceding fiscal year. Each such report shall include the following:

(1) The number of such eligible veterans in each region of the Veterans Health Administration.

(2) If feasible, the number of such eligible veterans per facility of the Department.

(3) The amount of funding for such assistance made available by the Secretary—

(A) for each region of the Veterans Health Administration; and

(B) for each type of assistance specified in subsection (b) of such section.

(4) Findings regarding—

(A) challenges in providing such assistance;

(B) child care not covered by such assistance; and

(C) recommendations to improve such assistance.

(b) BIENNIAL SUPPLEMENT.—Not less than once every two years, the report under subsection (a) shall include a supplement regarding the following:

(1) Other challenges regarding child care services that prevent veterans from receiving covered health care services under section 2.

(2) Plans of the Secretary to address challenges identified under paragraph (1).

(3) An assessment of the extent to which lack of education by the Department or awareness by veterans of the assistance under section 2 contributes to a lack of use of such assistance.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I will be brief. The lack of childcare is a serious barrier to workforce participation. But the lack of childcare is also a significant barrier to obtaining good healthcare, which is why I am so grateful that we are taking this step today to make it less so for our Nation's veterans who are in dire need of critical services at their VA.

My amendment is simple, Mr. Chairman. First, it requires the VA to report on the use of this new benefit broken down by region. We need to have hard data about usage to gauge the effectiveness of this program.

Secondly, it requires a biannual report from VA on other childcare bar-

riers besides the financial assistance we are providing today that may be hindering veterans' access to care.

Now, while this bill may get us down the road on improving care, there may be other barriers to childcare that remain: the lack of transportation, as an example; availability; or access to providers. While this bill is progress, we can't rest until all of the barriers to quality and affordable childcare for veterans seeking services has been addressed.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Congresswoman MOORE's amendment to require annual reports on the participation and funding requirements associated with childcare assistance, as well as biannual reports on other remaining challenges regarding childcare services and recommendations for improvement.

If we are going to create a new program like this one, we have an obligation to ensure that it is serving the people it is supposed to be serving, and providing good value for our taxpayers.

I am happy to support this amendment to ensure that this program is closely monitored by VA, and that Congress is able to use these reports to conduct appropriate oversight of it.

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman has 3½ minutes remaining.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the distinguished chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from Wisconsin for yielding.

I support this more amendment because we need to know how many veterans and children are eligible for no-cost childcare versus how many veterans and children are participating in this program.

Each region and medical facility should know how many veterans and children are eligible, and this report asks for VA to report this data in the President's budget submission to Congress so we can ensure VA is accurately reporting the resources it needs to make this a successful program.

Every 2 years, the VA would also be required to report other challenges and barriers veterans face, apart from childcare services that prevent veterans from receiving their healthcare at VA.

This report is also key to ensuring VA conducts the outreach and notifications to eligible veterans that would be required if this bill passes into law. This bill will require VA to assess whether lack of outreach by VA, or lack of awareness by veterans of this no-cost childcare program is a reason for lower participation.

This report would hold VA accountable for not doing everything it can to make this benefit available for the veterans who need it. I support this amendment.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I strongly support Congresswoman MOORE's amendment, and urge my colleagues to support it also.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, I do want to thank the chairman for his support, and I want to thank Members of the minority for their support. This is so very important.

I look forward to working with the chairman in this Congress to continue to ensure that the Veterans Administration has the capacity and the resources to do right by our veterans, to respect the rights of its union employees, to provide the needed services, and as you mentioned earlier, to make sure that they get critical healthcare.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 0930

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MS. KUSTER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 14 printed in House Report 116-6.

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on my amendment to H.R. 840, Kuster amendment No. 14.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 3, insert "to" after "required".

Page 2, after line 24, insert the following:

"(3) The Secretary shall establish criteria for providing child care assistance under paragraph (1) designed to ensure reasonable access to such assistance for veterans who experience any unusual or excessive burden to accessing child care services, including excessive driving distances, geographic challenges, and other environmental factors that impede such access."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire.

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, first, I thank the members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and our new leader, MARK TAKANO. Time and again, this committee proves that Congress can work across the aisle to pass commonsense

policy to improve the lives of our Nation's veterans. I also thank Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY, my good friend and colleague, for improving the availability of childcare services for veterans seeking mental health treatment.

That is why I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 840, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act, and it is also why I proudly offer this amendment.

My amendment would ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs develops and provides criteria to VA medical centers that account for access challenges when deciding what type of assistance to provide these veterans.

This Congress has recognized since at least 2014 that burdens to access are a significant barrier to receiving the quality healthcare that veterans want and deserve from our VA. Mental healthcare is no different.

In fact, access challenges are even more acute for mental health. We know that an alarmingly small percentage of eligible veterans seek mental health treatment, and we know that the veteran community is in crisis over suicide. We must do everything we can to ease the burden to access.

My amendment would address one of those access challenges that faces rural veterans daily. It is tough enough for veterans in my home State of New Hampshire who have to drive hours, sometimes through rain or snow, to receive the high-quality services at VA medical centers. They should be afforded the opportunity to place their children at childcare services closer to home to ease at least one burden, caring for a child while traveling.

But my amendment would also require the VA to provide childcare assistance that is convenient to the veteran rather than the contracting office. If the VA cannot provide services at the facility and instead must provide services in the community, veterans should not have to drive across town to drop off their children.

Childcare assistance should be provided in a way that eases burdens and accounts for geography and long driving distances.

In requiring the Secretary to develop criteria, my amendment will force consistency in furnishing this benefit and, more importantly, require the Department to really consider what it means for veterans seeking mental healthcare while also actively caring for their children.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment, and I am grateful for the wonderful work the gentleman does on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment sponsored by Congresswoman KUSTER to require VA to establish criteria for childcare assistance for veterans who experience unusual or excessive burdens when trying to access those childcare services.

Approximately 40 percent of veteran patients live in rural or highly rural areas. Those veterans have unique barriers both to healthcare and to childcare, and VA must take those barriers into consideration when it is designing this program.

I thank my good friend, Congresswoman KUSTER, who is a tireless advocate for veterans in New Hampshire. Congresswoman KUSTER and I spent Thanksgiving a couple years ago in Afghanistan, visiting our troops. I know her love for veterans and her commitment to that and her work on this amendment. I am pleased to join her in supporting it.

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

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his kind words.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I support this amendment offered by Congresswoman KUSTER, a former member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and a tireless advocate for veterans in the State of New Hampshire. I am pleased that our colleague, Congressman PAPPAS from New Hampshire, has joined our committee so that we can continue to work on veterans legislation for the veterans of the State of New Hampshire and across the country.

This amendment will require the VA to establish criteria for childcare assistance for veterans who need to drive long distances or face other unique geographic challenges. I believe that this amendment would also address some of the concerns raised by our colleague Mr. SABLAN from the Northern Mariana Islands, where veterans must cross the Pacific Ocean to access VA healthcare. I also thank the gentlewoman for including a technical fix for the underlying bill in her amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. DELGADO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in House Report 116-6.

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 9, insert "or extended day program" after "child care center".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

No veteran in Upstate New York or across the country should have to forgo healthcare because they can't access childcare services. My amendment adds emergency mental healthcare as a covered healthcare service for veterans under H.R. 840.

As it now reads, the bill provides for regular and intensive care, such as monthly VA medical appointments. However, it does not account for unscheduled appointments that, sadly, can make the difference between life and death. What if there is no time for an appointment? What if the individual is thinking about harming themselves or others?

My amendment would allow veterans to receive childcare services when there is an immediate need for assistance due to mental ailment, whether from addictive opioids, post-traumatic stress disorder, or depression, just to name a few.

In my district and throughout most of the country, we have seen the opioid crisis rise to horrific numbers and impact millions of families. In fact, between 2010 and 2015, studies revealed that the number of veterans addicted to prescribed opioids grew by more than 50 percent, a total of 68,000 servicemembers. This is quite a concern. In my district, I represent more than 39,000 veterans, and much too often, addiction and mental health are swept under the table.

Mental health should not be treated differently than one's physical health, and this legislation and proposed amendment take significant steps to do just that, helping to aid veterans and their respective families with this fight. Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our country, and when faced with a mental health crisis, it is our responsibility as a nation to do everything we can to provide for their well-being.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Congressman DELGADO and Congresswoman LAWRENCE's amendment to expand the definition of childcare services to include extended daycare programs.

Many schools offer childcare in the morning or evening hours to accommodate the busy schedules of working parents. If those programs are a better fit for the children of veterans seeking childcare assistance under this bill, it only makes sense for VA to have the flexibility to use them.

That said, I have questions about this amendment that I believe could have been addressed had this bill gone through regular order. For example, would this amendment permit veterans whose children are already involved in these programs to deduct a portion of the cost when they are seeking care, or does this only cover drop-in care?

I am grateful to Congressman DELGADO for his work on this amendment, and I hope that we can work with Chairman TAKANO to address these questions.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I support this amendment because veterans should be able to receive stipends for extended day programs for their children. Extended day programs are before- or after-school childcare programs that are generally less expensive than traditional childcare services and often include tutoring or other academic assistance to children.

If placing children in an extended day program is a convenient way for veterans to make sure their children are being cared for while they attend their healthcare appointments, we should support making this alternative and often less expensive childcare service available to them.

Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. DELGADO. Again, Mr. Chairman, I thank Congresswoman BROWNLEY and Chairman TAKANO for their efforts to get H.R. 840 to the House floor. I urge both sides of the aisle to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. DELGADO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 16 printed in House Report 116-6.

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 16, strike "or";

Page 3, after line 16, insert the following: "(C) emergency mental health care services; or".

Page 3, line 17, strike "(C)" and insert "(D)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment would add extended day programs, otherwise known as before- and after-school programs, to the childcare services that qualify for a stipend or reimbursement from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs under H.R. 840.

Extended day programs held at educational institutions, typically K-12, are offered to students whose parents have obligations prior to school hours and/or obligations that extend beyond school hours. They are a valuable educational tool. Recent studies suggest that childcare programs that focus on education rather than general daycare services improve students' academic achievement and help close the achievement gap.

In rural communities like those in my district, going to the doctor can mean a long commute, so expanding access to childcare services is especially important.

Expanding such access is also vital as we look to fulfill our Nation's commitment to support female veterans. Mothers in particular often have to forgo their own healthcare in order to provide for their children. With more and more women in service, including the estimated 3,500 woman servicemembers in my district, we must prioritize ways we can help them and their families. This bill is one way we can do that, and adding this amendment would just strengthen that measure.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I think we have these two amendments reversed.

The Acting CHAIR. Does the gentleman seek to be recognized in opposition to the amendment?

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Yes, I do.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to engage in a colloquy with Chairman TAKANO.

I think we have these two amendments reversed.

Mr. TAKANO. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. TAKANO. The order of the amendments got reversed.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. We voted on 15, and now we are going to 16.

Mr. TAKANO. That is correct.

□ 0945

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Representatives DELGADO, HARDER, and STEFANK's amendment to include emergency mental healthcare under the definition of a covered health service.

It is a tragedy and a tragic fact that approximately 20 veterans die every day by suicide. We have perhaps no greater calling on the Veterans' Affairs Committee than doing all we can do to lower and eliminate that number.

A veteran in crisis must have the benefit of every available support to get them through that crisis and on a path to healing. This amendment will ensure that the lack of childcare won't be a barrier to care for a veteran in crisis.

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

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Chairman, again, I have to thank Congresswoman BROWNLEY and Chairman TAKANO for their efforts to get H.R. 840 on the House floor.

I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO). The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. GOLDEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 17 printed in House Report 116-6.

Mr. GOLDEN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 14, after "services" insert "including health care services provided as part of readjustment counseling".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. GOLDEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maine.

Mr. GOLDEN. Mr. Chair, I want to start, first of all, by thanking the chair and ranking member of the committee, Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member ROE. I appreciate their work on this bill and the committee bringing this forward so early on in the year.

I also want to thank Congresswoman ANN KUSTER for cosponsoring this amendment.

I offer this as one of many veterans who has depended on VA mental health services. Like so many other veterans, I was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress after my service in Afghanistan and Iraq.

When I returned home to Maine after completing my service, I struggled a bit. It took me over a year to accept that I actually needed help of any kind,

but when I did finally get to that point, one thing that helped me was readjustment counseling at a local vet center.

Readjustment counseling is another term for mental health services that help veterans and their families transition from the battlefield to civilian life. Readjustment counseling helped me to better understand that the physical and emotional reactions I had returning from Iraq were, in fact, normal. Once I understood this, it became easier for me to deal with these reactions head-on.

I know firsthand how easy it is for real life to get in the way of seeking the mental healthcare that a veteran needs. You will make almost any excuse that might come your way—or reasonable excuse, sometimes—to avoid seeking these services, so I think it is important to knock down those barriers and make it as easy as possible for veterans to access the ability to go to an appointment.

Knowing how difficult it can be sometimes when life gets in the way, I am not surprised that 10 percent of veterans have had to cancel a necessary VA appointment because they didn't have childcare. When you consider that number, it is clear that veterans and their families sometimes need access to childcare so they can get to their mental healthcare appointment.

This bill, the Veterans' Access to Childcare Act, makes that childcare available to vets and their families when they need it.

None of my fellow veterans should have to choose between caring for their children and getting the mental healthcare that they need; and, just like I did, many veterans need readjustment counseling. My amendment makes sure that readjustment counseling services are covered under this bill.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Congressman GOLDEN and Congresswoman KUSTER's amendment to expand the healthcare services under which a veteran would be eligible to receive childcare assistance to include readjustment counseling.

The readjustment counseling provided through vet centers is an important component of VA's mental healthcare system of care. I commend Congressman GOLDEN and Congresswoman KUSTER for making sure that veterans in need of childcare assistance so that they can attend appointments at vet centers are able to receive that assistance.

I thank Congressman GOLDEN for his service to our great country. I think we owe the gentleman a great debt of gratitude and welcome him here to the House floor.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOLDEN. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and let me also associate myself with the remarks of the ranking member. I thank Congressman GOLDEN for his service and, more importantly, thank him for sharing his story so bravely and forthrightly on the House floor. I hope it will do much to encourage other veterans to seek counseling with the VA.

I support this amendment because the transition from military to civilian life can be a stressful time for many veterans. When veterans are simultaneously caring for children, it can be difficult for veterans, during this time when they may be looking for or starting a new job or starting school, to get the mental health services they need. They should not be worried about finding and affording childcare so they can receive mental health counseling and healthcare treatment when the VA can provide it at no cost.

Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague for offering this important amendment.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I support this amendment; I encourage my colleagues to support it; and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOLDEN. Mr. Chair, I also want, in closing, to urge all of our colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maine (Mr. GOLDEN). The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. GOLDEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 18 printed in House Report 116-6.

Mr. GOLDEN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, insert the following:

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the effectiveness and accessibility of the child care assistance provided under section 1710D of title 38, United States Code, as added by this section, for eligible individuals who reside in rural and highly rural areas.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. GOLDEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maine.

Mr. GOLDEN. Mr. Chair, I also want to thank Congressman ROE for his service as well, and I appreciate the gentleman recognizing that for me as well.

Having already thanked, with the previous amendment, the chairman and ranking member, I want to thank Congressman BRINDISI for cosponsoring this amendment. The gentleman comes from a place similar to mine, a very rural area, which leads me to the subject of the amendment.

Too often in this country, I think that Congress can make laws that benefit cities and urban areas without understanding fully how those laws impact rural communities. I represent Maine. It is one of our country's most rural States.

Almost a quarter of all veterans in the United States, about 4.7 million, return from active military careers to reside in a rural community where they experience the many rural healthcare challenges that are only intensified by combat-related injuries and illnesses.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 58 percent of rural veterans are enrolled in the VA healthcare system, significantly higher than the 37 percent enrollment rate of urban veterans. In rural areas, basic levels of healthcare or preventive care may not be available to support residents' long-term health and well-being.

Compared to urban areas, rural communities tend to have higher poverty rates, more elderly residents, and fewer physician practices, hospitals, and other health delivery services.

The Veterans' Access to Child Care Act would help our veterans and their families get the care that they need, but the program has to work just as well for veterans in rural areas as it does for veterans in urban regions. I offer a second amendment today that would help ensure this new program works for veterans living in rural areas.

The amendment would require the VA to study whether the VA childcare program is as effective and accessible for veterans in rural and very rural areas so that the program can later be improved upon if it falls short in helping rural veterans.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MCEACHIN). Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Congressman GOLDEN and BRINDISI's amendment requiring a report regarding the accessibility and effectiveness of the childcare assistance program for veterans living in rural and highly rural areas.

As I said earlier this morning when discussing Congresswoman KUSTER's amendment, approximately 40 percent

of veterans live in rural or highly rural areas. Those veterans have unique access needs, and VA must be mindful when creating this program.

Mr. Chair, I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOLDEN. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I support this amendment because veterans living in rural or highly rural areas face many barriers to receiving healthcare. Childcare, whether for a lack of convenience or its high cost, should not be another roadblock for veterans who must sometimes travel great distances for their appointments.

This amendment would require VA to report to Congress on the effectiveness and accessibility of no-cost childcare for veterans living in rural communities. This report can, in turn, be used to find solutions for veterans who need both childcare and healthcare in rural communities.

Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for offering this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I support this amendment; I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment; and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOLDEN. Mr. Chair, I would like to end, again, by urging all of my colleagues to support this amendment as well, and I want to thank the chairman, the ranking member, and the entire committee and Rules Committee for entertaining these two very important amendments.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maine (Mr. GOLDEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 19 printed in House Report 116-6.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, I have the amendment at the desk made in order by the rule.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 5, strike "Child care" and insert "Subject to subsection (c), child care".

Page 2, after line 24, insert the following:

"(c) REQUIREMENTS; RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—(1) In accordance with paragraph (2), a child care center, child care agency, or any other child care provider described in subsection (b) may not provide child care under this section if the center, agency, or provider employs an individual who has been convicted of a sex crime, an offense involving a child victim, a violent crime, a drug felony, or other offense the Secretary determines appropriate.

"(2) Nothing in paragraph (1) shall supersede, nullify, or diminish any Federal or State law (including any local law or ordi-

nance), contract, agreement, policy, plan, practice, or other matter that establishes standards and requirements for employees of child care centers, child care agencies, or other child care providers described in subsection (b) that are more restrictive than the requirements specified in paragraph (1)."

Page 2, line 25, strike "(c)" and insert "(d)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer the 19th amendment to the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act.

The pilot program Congress authorized in 2010 to provide childcare at VA medical centers and clinics around the country is incredibly popular with the veteran community. It provides a safe, reliable option for parents who need to access VA healthcare. This bill will expand the program so that all caretakers, including parents and grandparents, can access this service.

The amendment I am introducing this morning ensures that caretakers have a safe and secure environment for their children at a VA center. It bars employment of individuals convicted of a sex crime, an offense involving a child victim, a violent crime, a drug felony, or other offense the Secretary of Veterans Affairs deems appropriate. It also ensures that the bill will not weaken State or local laws that enforce rigorous hiring guidelines.

As a working mom, I know all too well how important it is to know that your children have a safe and healthy environment while away from home. Mr. Chair, ensuring our veterans have access to childcare at VA facilities is the least we can do for the men and women who have stood up to serve our country.

Over 6 million veteran households have children. In my own community, I have heard from the new generation of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, many with young families, on the need for VA to modernize services in line with their needs.

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This includes local veterans I have spoken to at our American Legion in Woodland Park, who are working parents with small children. They have remarked that the extension of this program could be a significant benefit to the veteran community in New Jersey. This bill means less stress for our veterans who would need to otherwise arrange for childcare to make an appointment. They have also told me that this bill will help veterans make and attend appointments because they wouldn't have to worry about arranging childcare. This acknowledges both the needs of our veterans and creates a support network for them.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Congresswoman SHERRILL's amendment, which would prohibit childcare providers from providing childcare assistance under this program if they employ an individual convicted of a sex crime, an offense involving a child victim, a violent crime, or a drug felony.

It would also stipulate that the requirements in this bill are not intended to lower any Federal, State, or local standards for hiring or screening childcare centers.

I thank Congresswoman SHERRILL for introducing this thoughtful amendment that recognizes that the children of veterans accessing childcare assistance under this bill must be cared for in the safest environment possible.

This amendment is a no-brainer, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I also thank the gentlewoman for her service in our military as a Navy pilot.

I support this very important amendment because veterans must be able to trust that childcare centers and childcare providers caring for their children will not place their children at risk.

At a very minimum, the veterans should know that when they receive their health services, their children are safe. This amendment would prevent an onsite VA childcare center, or any childcare agency that has a contract with VA, from employing anyone convicted of sex crimes, offenses involving a child victim, violent crimes, drug felonies, or other offenses.

Since State and local laws often have even stricter standards when it comes to who can be employed as a childcare provider, this amendment would not supersede those State or local laws or any contract or agreement that requires higher standards to be met.

At the very minimum, veterans who need childcare so they can see their healthcare providers must trust that those who are watching their children will keep their kids safe. I thank the gentlewoman for offering this very important amendment.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I support this commonsense amendment and encourage my colleagues to do so also.

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by Ms. SHERRILL to the underlying bill.

While I support the underlying bill, this amendment is overly broad in that it would prohibit qualified individuals from being employed under the bill if they had ever been convicted of a drug felony or any violent crime, even a misdemeanor. I support the other exclusions included in the amendment.

The collateral consequences faced by individuals convicted of drug felonies, such as denial of employment when otherwise qualified, is counterproductive to the goal of reducing recidivism.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Jersey will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 20 printed in House Report 116-6.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 15, insert “, including counseling and care and services under section 1720D of this title” before the semicolon.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act, which will specifically include military sexual trauma counseling and care services in the definition of services eligible for childcare at a VA center clinic.

We ask our servicemembers to risk their lives and their health on behalf of our country. They take care of us, and it is our duty to take care of them, especially after they leave the military.

Over the summer, I spoke to veterans in my district in New Jersey about the inadequacies they see in VA services for this generation of returning servicemembers.

I heard from female servicemembers about the need for better counseling services for victims of military sexual trauma, or MST. Several of the female veterans at a roundtable I held this summer remarked on the fact that their voices were not heard in either the planning of services or implementation of services.

Many of their fellow veterans did not make important appointments due to lack of access to childcare. Certainly,

as a mother, I would not feel comfortable attending counseling and relating a story of sexual assault to a counselor in front of my children.

This amendment is just one step in what must be an ongoing effort in this Congress to address military sexual assault trauma. The Department of Defense estimates that in 2016, 14,900 Active Duty servicemembers, men and women, experience a sexual assault.

While this number is much lower than the 34,000 Active Duty servicemembers who are believed to have experienced a sexual assault in 2006, the armed services still has a long way to go to address military sexual assault in the ranks.

The female veterans in my community have remarked that because of the trauma of military sexual trauma, women often do not report it, and, therefore, the number of veterans who have been sexually assaulted is woefully underreported.

These are the invisible wounds of war—invisible trauma that we cannot see as our servicemembers return home. I am particularly concerned that victims of sexual trauma, which is prevalent in military and civilian populations, are not getting the services that they need.

This amendment will ensure survivors are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve when trying to access care at the VA without worrying about the cost or availability of childcare.

I take this opportunity to thank some of the veteran service groups in our district, like Welcome Home Vets and SOS Stakeholders, who support our veterans, give feedback to the VA on the needs of our servicemembers, and work tirelessly to connect service providers with veterans.

I also thank Congresswoman KUSTER and Congresswoman MOORE for cosponsoring this amendment and their tireless advocacy for our veterans.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Congresswomen SHERRILL, KUSTER, and MOORE's amendment to include mental healthcare provided for the treatment of military sexual trauma, MST, under the definition of a “covered health service.”

Sexual trauma can have wide-ranging implications on a person's physical and mental health. I am grateful to the sponsors of this amendment for making sure that MST is specifically included in this legislation so that veterans who have suffered this terrible crime will face one less barrier to obtaining care. I am happy to support this amendment

and urge all of my colleagues to join me.

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I support this amendment because veterans, especially women veterans, who have been victims of military sexual trauma, often need intensive healthcare services and mental health treatment that can require frequent appointments at VA medical centers, clinics, and vet centers.

Finding convenient, safe, and affordable childcare should not stop veterans from receiving treatment, especially veterans who are victims of sexual assault in the military and suffer from the lasting effects of that trauma.

This committee, through the Women Veterans Task Force, led by Congresswoman BROWNLEY, will make access to care for women veterans and their specific healthcare needs a priority of ours. I support this amendment and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MS. SLOTKIN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 21 printed in House Report 116-6.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of section 2, add the following new subsection:

(c) AUTHORITY TO CONSULT WITH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—In implementing section 1730D of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may consult with the Secretary of Defense.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 840, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act.

As a former national security official, as the wife of a retired Army officer, and a stepmom to a new Army lieutenant, I strongly support H.R. 840, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act, and any legislation that helps our veterans access and use VA healthcare

that they have earned and to which they are entitled.

My amendment would take a simple but important step toward better serving military families and veterans. Specifically, it would authorize the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to consult with the Secretary of Defense in implementing this legislation.

The need for better DOD-VA coordination on every front is not new. From education to job training and healthcare, Congress has taken many steps to encourage, to prod, to require, and, in some cases, to demand that DOD and the VA work together and better coordinate the services they provide to military families and veterans.

And as I can tell you from very personal experience, you do not have to spend much time with veterans in my district to know the stories of faulty connections, gaps in communication, and mismatched systems that confound our ability to serve military families and veterans evenly.

I am standing here today because I believe we should take every opportunity to encourage the kind of coordination that eases these connections. Childcare is an area in which DOD and the VA can and should collaborate more closely, especially as the two departments work to better coordinate the provision of healthcare benefits to millions of retirees and their families.

The Veterans' Access to Child Care Act would add valuable childcare services to VA patients to help them keep vital medical appointments that they might otherwise have missed in the absence of childcare options.

Simultaneously, the Department of Defense has been working to expand childcare options for military families, addressing an urgent need for services that don't just care for families, but contribute to military readiness.

Both of these efforts are vitally important, which means that the Department of Defense and VA should look for any opportunity to work together and expand childcare options for the families they serve. What's more, thousands of military members on Active Duty and in the Reserve component are married to veterans. Thousands of dual military families today will eventually become military and veteran families tomorrow, and my stepdaughter is married to a military officer, so this one is particularly personal.

This is just another reason that coordination between the Department of Defense and VA childcare programs can help us better serve these populations.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment to push for stronger coordination between the VA and the Department of Defense.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Congresswoman SLOTKIN's amendment to authorize consultation between the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans' Affairs in the implementation of this childcare assistance program.

Ensuring greater collaboration between VA and DOD has long been a priority of mine, so I am pleased to support this amendment today.

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I rise to support this amendment because it would allow the VA to consult with the Department of Defense on the implementation of this bill.

Since DOD provides childcare for servicemembers and their families, VA can look to DOD for best practices so that it can successfully and efficiently expand this program so that every veteran eligible for no-cost childcare while they are receiving healthcare services can access this benefit when they need it.

I thank the Congresswoman for offering this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it. I might also add that I am pleased to see so many of the amendments that my colleagues offered today are adopted. I hope that when we vote on this much improved bill, it will pass with unanimous support so that I can advocate for its swift passage with my Senate colleagues.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I support this commonsense amendment and encourage my colleagues to do so.

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

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Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 116-6 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 4 by Mr. BERGMAN of Michigan; and

Amendment No. 19 by Ms. SHERRILL of New Jersey.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. BERGMAN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 172, noes 246, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 72]

AYES—172

Abraham	Gooden	Olson
Aderholt	Gosar	Palazzo
Allen	Granger	Palmer
Amash	Graves (GA)	Pence
Amodei	Graves (LA)	Perry
Armstrong	Graves (MO)	Posey
Arrington	Green (TN)	Ratcliffe
Babin	Griffith	Reed
Bacon	Grothman	Reschenthaler
Baird	Guest	Rice (SC)
Balderson	Guthrie	Riggleman
Banks	Hagedorn	Roby
Barr	Harris	Rodgers (WA)
Bergman	Hartzler	Roe, David P.
Biggs	Hern, Kevin	Rogers (KY)
Billirakis	Hice (GA)	Rooney (FL)
Bishop (UT)	Higgins (LA)	Rose, John W.
Bost	Hill (AR)	Rouzer
Brady	Holding	Roy
Buck	Hollingsworth	Scalise
Bucshon	Huizenga	Schweikert
Budd	Hunter	Scott, Austin
Burchett	Johnson (LA)	Sensenbrenner
Burgess	Johnson (OH)	Shimkus
Calvert	Johnson (SD)	Simpson
Carter (GA)	Jordan	Smith (MO)
Carter (TX)	Joyce (OH)	Smith (NE)
Chabot	Joyce (PA)	Smucker
Cheney	Kelly (MS)	Spano
Cline	Kelly (PA)	Stauber
Cloud	King (IA)	Steil
Cole	King (NY)	Stewart
Collins (GA)	Kinzinger	Taylor
Collins (NY)	Kustoff (TN)	Thompson (PA)
Comer	LaHood	Thornberry
Conaway	Lamborn	Timmons
Cook	Latta	Tipton
Crawford	Lesko	Wagner
Crenshaw	Long	Walberg
Curtis	Loudermilk	Walden
Davidson (OH)	Luetkemeyer	Walker
Davis, Rodney	Marchant	Walorski
DesJarlais	Marshall	Waltz
Diaz-Balart	Massie	Watkins
Duffy	Mast	Weber (TX)
Duncan	McCarthy	Webster (FL)
Dunn	McCaul	Westerman
Emmer	McClintock	Williams
Estes	McKinley	Wilson (SC)
Ferguson	Meadows	Wittman
Fleischmann	Meuser	Womack
Flores	Miller	Woodall
Fortenberry	Moolenaar	Wright
Foxx (NC)	Mooney (WV)	Yoho
Fulcher	Mullin	Young
Gallagher	Newhouse	Zeldin
Gianforte	Norman	
Gibbs	Nunes	

NOES—246

Adams	Butterfield	Courtney
Aguilar	Byrne	Cox (CA)
Axne	Carbajal	Craig
Barragán	Cárdenas	Crist
Bass	Carson (IN)	Crow
Beatty	Cartwright	Cuellar
Bera	Case	Cummings
Beyer	Casten (IL)	Cunningham
Bishop (GA)	Castor (FL)	Davids (KS)
Blumenauer	Castro (TX)	Davis (CA)
Blunt Rochester	Chu, Judy	Davis, Danny K.
Bonamici	Cicilline	Dean
Boyle, Brendan	Cisneros	DeFazio
F.	Clark (MA)	DeGette
Brindisi	Clarke (NY)	DeLauro
Brooks (AL)	Clay	DeBene
Brooks (IN)	Cleaver	Delgado
Brown (MD)	Cohen	Demings
Brownley (CA)	Cooper	DeSaulnier
Buchanan	Correa	Deutch
Bustos	Costa	Doggett

Doyle, Michael	Lawrence	Rose (NY)
F.	Lee (CA)	Rouda
Engel	Lee (NV)	Roybal-Allard
Escobar	Levin (CA)	Ruiz
Eshoo	Levin (MI)	Ruppersberger
Espallat	Lewis	Rush
Evans	Lieu, Ted	Ryan
Finkenauer	Lipinski	Sablan
Fitzpatrick	Loebsack	Sánchez
Fletcher	Lofgren	Sarbanes
Foster	Lowenthal	Scanlon
Frankel	Lowe	Schakowsky
Fudge	Lujan	Schiff
Gabbard	Luria	Schneider
Gallego	Lynch	Schrader
Garamendi	Malinowski	Schrier
Garcia (IL)	Maloney,	Scott (VA)
Garcia (TX)	Carolyn B.	Scott, David
Golden	Maloney, Sean	Serrano
Gomez	Matsui	Sewell (AL)
Gonzalez (OH)	McAdams	Shalala
Gonzalez (TX)	McBath	Sherman
González-Colón	McCollum	Sherrill
(PR)	McEachin	Sires
Gottheimer	McGovern	Slotkin
Green (TX)	McHenry	Smith (NJ)
Grijalva	McNerney	Smith (WA)
Haaland	Meeks	Soto
Harder (CA)	Meng	Spanberger
Hastings	Mitchell	Speier
Hayes	Morelle	Stanton
Heck	Moulton	Stefanik
Herrera Beutler	Mucarsel-Powell	Stevens
Higgins (NY)	Murphy	Stivers
Hill (CA)	Nadler	Suozi
Himes	Napolitano	Swalwell (CA)
Horn, Kendra S.	Neal	Takano
Horsford	Neguse	Thompson (CA)
Houlahan	Norcross	Thompson (MS)
Hoyer	Norton	Titus
Hudson	O'Halleran	Tlaib
Hurd (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez	Tonko
Jackson Lee	Pallone	Torres (CA)
Jayapal	Panetta	Torres Small
Jeffries	Pappas	(NM)
Johnson (GA)	Pascrell	Trahan
Johnson (TX)	Payne	Trone
Kaptur	Perlmutter	Turner
Katko	Peters	Underwood
Keating	Peterson	Upton
Kelly (IL)	Phillips	Van Drew
Khanna	Pingree	Vargas
Kildee	Plaskett	Veasey
Kilmer	Pocan	Vela
Kim	Porter	Velázquez
Kind	Pressley	Visclosky
Kirkpatrick	Price (NC)	Wasserman
Krishnamoorthi	Quigley	Schultz
Kuster (NH)	Raskin	Waters
Lamb	Rice (NY)	Welch
Langevin	Richmond	Wexton
Larsen (WA)	Rogers (AL)	Wild
Larson (CT)		Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—20

Allred	Jones	Rutherford
Clyburn	Kennedy	San Nicolas
Connelly	LaMalfa	Steube
Dingell	Lawson (FL)	Watson Coleman
Gaetz	Lucas	Wenstrup
Gohmert	Moore	Wilson (FL)
Huffman	Radewagen	

□ 1043

Messrs. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, HUDSON, MITCHELL, MCHENRY, STIVERS, DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Messrs. LEWIS, GONZALEZ of Texas, BUCHANAN, CLEAVER, FITZPATRICK, Mmes. BASS and TORRES SMALL of New Mexico changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. TAYLOR, DIAZ-BALART, WALKER, and KING of New York changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. HOYER was allowed to speak out of order.)

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE JOHN DAVID DINGELL, JR.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, my fellow colleagues, I rise with great sadness to announce the passing of one of this House's great and good Members, former Representative John David Dingell, Jr., who served in this House for almost a full six decades. His father preceded him for 22 years, and his wife, our beloved colleague, DEBBIE DINGELL, serves now.

At the request of his beloved wife, I have the sad task of informing the House that John died yesterday after a long, distinguished, and committed career of service to community, to this House, and to his country.

John served with honor in wartime and with distinction in this House. He worked for the advancement of his fellow veterans and their care and benefits in peacetime, and he fought all of his life for fairness and opportunity for all. He defended vigorously the working men and women of the auto industry and working families everywhere.

His wit, his humor brought smiles to our faces, and his fearless questions of witnesses in committee brought grimaces to those who believed they had undermined the safety and health of our citizens.

Much will be said. I know that each of you have your own memory of Chairman Dingell. I know that each of you will want to rise at some point in time over the next number of days to give your observations of this colleague with whom we were honored to serve.

Let us begin our remembrances of him, however, by celebrating the love that he had for this great institution about which he cared so deeply. He believed its powers to be: improving people's lives and delivering on the promises of those who came before us and to those who will come after us.

May John's legacy guide us forward as we seek to make this House all he believed it could be and all he did to make it so better than it might have been.

I now yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his beautiful statement of our beloved Mr. Dingell, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chair, again, as he mentioned last night, our Nation lost a beloved pillar of this Congress and one of the greatest legislators in American history.

Every chapter of Chairman John Dingell's life was lived in service to our country, from his time as a House page, as a teenager, to his service in the Army during World War II, to his almost six decades serving the people of Michigan in the U.S. Congress.

John Dingell leaves a towering legacy of unshakeable strength, boundless energy, and transformative leadership. Chairman Dingell had a hand in crafting many major legislative accomplishments over the past half century,

yet among the vast array of historic legislative achievements, few hold greater meaning than his tireless commitment to the health of the American people.

During every Congress since 1955, Chairman Dingell introduced legislation to secure affordable, quality healthcare for all Americans.

Because of his father's legacy, which our distinguished leader has referenced, and his own leadership, in 1965, he gaveled Medicare into law. In 2010, it was my privilege to hold that same gavel as we passed the Affordable Care Act.

Chairman Dingell was our distinguished dean and chairman, our legendary colleague, and a beloved friend. His memory will stand as an inspiration to all who worked with him or for him or had the pleasure of knowing him.

His leadership will endure in the lives of the millions of American families he touched. We hope it is a comfort to Chairman Dingell's beloved wife, dear DEBORAH, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, and their entire family that so many people mourn their loss and pray for them at this sad time.

I am pleased to mention that the flag is flying half-staff over the Capitol in his memory and invite Members to sign the condolence book in the Speaker's lobby.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, I thank the Speaker for her retelling, very briefly, the extraordinary record of our friend and colleague, John Dingell, who made America better, who made this House better, and who believed that in doing so, it was critically important to reach across the aisle, to have legislation that would enjoy the support of both sides of the aisle.

In that regard, I am blessed now to yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the Republican leader and my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Chair, I also rise to commemorate the incredible life and career of John Dingell, the former dean of this House.

Few individuals have amassed a record of public service that could rival John's, and I will bet no one will ever match it—59 years as an elected Representative.

In fact, his interest in politics began during his time as a congressional page, where he personally witnessed FDR's "a day that will live in infamy" speech from this very podium.

Take one moment to think of the life that this man has witnessed on this floor.

John taught us that public service is not a sprint, but a marathon. There are many lessons in his life that we can learn from, but I hope we take that lesson every day when we come to work here.

Another lesson I hope we learn is the one how I first met John. He was an icon before I got here. But I watched the respect, not from his own colleagues in his own party, but the respect from across the aisle.

They went to John for advice. When he walked on the floor, there were many on our side who stood around him to question him where he thought we could go.

He believed in this House; he believed in this country.

He had great passions: passion for his constituents; passion for his committee, Energy and Commerce. He loved that committee so much, he thought there needed to be no other committee in this House. It wasn't until his retirement that we got jurisdiction back in other places.

But he understood an ever-changing world, if you can only imagine serving that long. He was able to adapt, which we should learn from him, too.

Yes, the new world of social media many would think would pass him by because of his age. He was one of the first I would follow on Twitter.

And this is a lesson that this House, in a bipartisan manner, should take. It is one of my favorite tweets from John. It came in July of 2017. He wrote: "I've been trying to repeal and replace the United States Senate since 1955. No luck."

Yes, we are sad today, but he lived a life we could admire. I may have differences of opinion and philosophy with him, but I admired his will to fight for what he believed in. I admired the way he treated people who had different beliefs, and I admired the way he believed all sides should be heard.

I speak for everyone on this side of the aisle to convey our deepest sympathies, and to DEBBIE, and I ask that we lift him up in our prayers to God for his soul to rest peacefully, and to remember what he truly believed: public service matters; this country matters; and the ability to work together so all Americans will have a better tomorrow matters.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, I thank the majority leader for his remarks.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for the promotion.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, the spirit of John Dingell was so present in that remark.

Now, John Dingell apparently was not always right. He wanted to repeal the Senate, but then he wanted to replace it.

Mr. Chair, John Dingell, I will tell you, I was with him Wednesday from approximately 4 p.m. on Wednesday until 6:30 p.m., and DEBBIE was there. Your dad was there, ANDY, our dear colleague. Sandy Levin was there and John Orlando, who served with John on the Energy and Commerce Committee for such a great time. He remembered all of you. He asked me to give each of you his best, to wish you well, and to say that our country needs each of us to work together.

Would that we could leave just some of the legacy that John Dingell has left behind. We are so blessed that we have the opportunity to serve with his wife, his beloved wife, his lovely DEBORAH. What an extraordinary relationship,

what an extraordinary man. How lucky we were and are to serve with them.

The Speaker will be shortly notifying us of when the funeral will be, opportunities to go to the funeral. There will be a memorial service as well, here, and probably a service in the Capitol as well. So there will be opportunities for each of us to stand and testify to the greatness and goodness of John David Dingell, Jr.

Mr. Chair, I ask all the Members of Congress and all the ladies and gentlemen in the gallery to join us in a moment of silence in remembrance of our friend John Dingell.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. PALLONE). All present will rise and observe a moment of silence in honor of our beloved John Dingell.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 401, noes 19, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 73]

AYES—401

Abraham	Byrne	Curtis
Adams	Calvert	Davis (KS)
Aderholt	Carbajal	Davis (CA)
Aguilar	Cárdenas	Davis, Rodney
Allen	Carson (IN)	Dean
Amodei	Carter (GA)	DeFazio
Armstrong	Carter (TX)	DeGette
Arrington	Cartwright	DeLauro
Axne	Case	DeBene
Babin	Casten (IL)	Delgado
Bacon	Castor (FL)	Demings
Baird	Castro (TX)	DeSaulnier
Balderson	Chabot	DesJarlais
Banks	Cheney	Deutch
Barr	Chu, Judy	Diaz-Balart
Barragán	Ciçilline	Doggett
Beatty	Cisneros	Doyle, Michael
Bera	Clark (MA)	F.
Bergman	Clarke (NY)	Duffy
Beyer	Clay	Duncan
Billirakis	Cleaver	Dunn
Bishop (GA)	Cline	Emmer
Bishop (UT)	Cloud	Engel
Blumenauer	Cohen	Escobar
Blunt Rochester	Cole	Eshoo
Bonamici	Collins (GA)	Espallat
Bost	Collins (NY)	Estes
Boyle, Brendan	Comer	Evans
F.	Conaway	Ferguson
Brady	Cook	Finkenauer
Brindisi	Cooper	Fitzpatrick
Brooks (AL)	Correa	Fleischmann
Brooks (IN)	Costa	Fletcher
Brown (MD)	Courtney	Flores
Brownley (CA)	Cox (CA)	Fortenberry
Buchanan	Craig	Foster
Buck	Crawford	Fox (NC)
Bucshon	Crenshaw	Frankel
Budd	Crist	Fulcher
Burchett	Crow	Gabbard
Burgess	Cuellar	Gallagher
Bustos	Cummings	Gallego
Butterfield	Cunningham	Garamendi

Garcia (IL)	Lofgren
Garcia (TX)	Long
Gianforte	Loudermilk
Gibbs	Lowenthal
Gohmert	Lowe
Golden	Luetkemeyer
Gomez	Lujan
Gonzalez (OH)	Luria
Gonzalez (TX)	Lynch
González-Colón (PR)	Malinowski
Gooden	Maloney
Gooden	Carolyn B.
Gottheimer	Maloney, Sean
Granger	Marchant
Graves (GA)	Marshall
Graves (LA)	Mast
Graves (MO)	Matsui
Green (TN)	McAdams
Green (TX)	McBath
Griffith	McCarthy
Grijalva	McCaul
Grothman	McClintock
Guest	McCollum
Guthrie	McEachin
Haaland	McGovern
Hagedorn	McHenry
Harder (CA)	McKinley
Hartzler	McNerney
Hastings	Meadows
Hayes	Meeks
Heck	Meng
Hern, Kevin	Meuser
Herrera Beutler	Miller
Hice (GA)	Mitchell
Higgins (LA)	Moolenaar
Higgins (NY)	Mooney (WV)
Hill (AR)	Moore
Hill (CA)	Morelle
Himes	Moulton
Holding	Mucarsel-Powell
Hollingsworth	Mullin
Horn, Kendra S.	Murphy
Horsford	Napolitano
Houlahan	Neal
Hoyer	Neguse
Hudson	Newhouse
Huizenga	Norcross
Hunter	Norman
Hurd (TX)	Norton
Jackson Lee	Nunes
Jeffries	O'Halleran
Johnson (LA)	Olson
Johnson (OH)	Palazzo
Johnson (SD)	Pallone
Johnson (TX)	Palmer
Jordan	Panetta
Joyce (OH)	Pappas
Joyce (PA)	Pascrell
Kaptur	Payne
Katko	Pence
Keating	Perlmutter
Kelly (IL)	Perry
Kelly (MS)	Peters
Kelly (PA)	Peterson
Khanna	Phillips
Kildee	Pingree
Kilmer	Plaskett
Kim	Pocan
Kind	Porter
King (IA)	Posey
King (NY)	Price (NC)
Kinzinger	Quigley
Kirkpatrick	Raskin
Krishnamoorthi	Ratcliffe
Kuster (NH)	Reed
Kustoff (TN)	Reschenthaler
LaHood	Rice (NY)
Lamb	Rice (SC)
Lamborn	Riggleman
Langevin	Roby
Larsen (WA)	Rodgers (WA)
Larson (CT)	Roe, David P.
Latta	Rogers (AL)
Lawrence	Rogers (KY)
Lee (CA)	Rooney (FL)
Lee (NV)	Rose (NY)
Lesko	Rose, John W.
Levin (CA)	Rouda
Levin (MI)	Rouzer
Lewis	Roybal-Allard
Lieu, Ted	Ruiz
Lipinski	Ruppersberger
Loeback	Rush

NOES—19

Amash	Davis, Danny K.	Jayapal
Bass	Fudge	Johnson (GA)
Biggs	Gosar	Massie
Davidson (OH)	Harris	Nadler

Ocasio-Cortez	Richmond	Tlaib
Omar	Roy	
Pressley	Scott (VA)	

NOT VOTING—18

Allred	Jones	Rutherford
Clyburn	Kennedy	San Nicolas
Connolly	LaMalfa	Steube
Dingell	Lawson (FL)	Watson Coleman
Gaetz	Lucas	Wenstrup
Huffman	Radewagen	Wilson (FL)

□ 1104

Mrs. BEATTY changed her vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to. The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) having assumed the chair, Mr. PALLONE, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 840) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and, pursuant to House Resolution 105, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. BARR. I am in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Barr moves to recommit the bill H.R. 840 to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

At the end of section 1730D of title 38, United States Code, as proposed to be added by section 2 of the bill, add the following new subsection:

“(e) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), no payment may be made under this sec-

tion to a child care center, child care agency, or child care provider described in subsection (b) that employs an individual who has been charged with—

- “(A) a sex offense;
- “(B) an offense involving a child victim;
- “(C) a violent crime;
- “(D) a drug felony; or
- “(E) other offense that the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(2) Payment may be made under this section to a child care center, child care agency, or child care provider described in subsection (b) if such child care center, child care agency, or child care provider has suspended the individual described in paragraph (1) from having any contact with children while on the job until the case is resolved.”

Mr. BARR (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, just a few minutes ago, we adopted, by a recorded vote, a commonsense amendment offered by Congresswoman MIKIE SHERRILL from New Jersey. Congresswoman SHERRILL's amendment would prohibit a childcare center, agency, or provider from caring for the children of our Nation's veterans as authorized by this bill if they employ an individual who has been convicted of a sex crime, a violent crime, a drug felony, or another offense the VA considers appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Congresswoman SHERRILL for offering her amendment, which I was pleased to join my colleagues in supporting on a bipartisan basis. However, Ms. SHERRILL's amendment failed to address another troubling situation, a situation that, if this bill had gone through regular order, may have been identified.

Specifically, Federal law allows but does not require a childcare facility operated by a Federal agency or under contract with a Federal agency to suspend a childcare worker if they have been charged with a sex crime, an offense involving a child victim, a violent crime, or a drug felony, but whose charge is still pending.

My motion to recommit, Mr. Speaker, is very simple. It would remove that discretion and affirmatively prohibit the VA from paying a childcare provider if they employ an individual who has been charged with a sex offense, an offense involving a child victim, a violent crime, a drug felony, or other offense that the Secretary determines appropriate unless the childcare provider has suspended that individual from having any contact with any children while on the job until the case has been resolved.

It can take a considerable amount of time for some cases to proceed through our criminal justice system. For example, in 2013, a nursing assistant at the Alexandria VA Healthcare System in

Pineville, Louisiana, was charged with negligent homicide after a physical altercation with a veteran patient who later died. In 2018, 5 years later, that case finally came to a resolution when the nursing assistant pleaded no contest.

During those intervening 5 years, that nursing assistant remained as a VA employee. He was suspended for some time, but eventually was brought back to work while the charge was still pending. Imagine if this individual had been caring for children.

This case illustrates the length of time the judicial process can take and, regrettably, the need to remove the manager's discretion in these situations.

Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker. This motion does not presuppose the guilt of anyone who is charged with one of these crimes; rather, it acknowledges, like we all did with Ms. SHERRILL's amendment, that we have an obligation to ensure the safety and the well-being of children who will be cared for under this program.

Congress creates and oversees Federal agencies and the rules by which they and their employees operate. Just as Congress created existing guidelines giving agencies the discretion to deny employment for convicted or charged sex offenders, so, too, can Congress remove that discretion.

□ 1115

I am not willing to gamble with the safety of my own children, nor am I willing to gamble with the safety of our veterans' children either.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, any Member here today who votes against this motion to recommit is voting to potentially expose children to the care of an individual who has been charged with a serious crime, including a sex crime against a child.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues for their support of this commonsense motion to protect the children of the men and women who have bravely served in uniform.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. LAMB), who was a former criminal prosecutor before he arrived in Congress.

Mr. LAMB. Mr. Speaker, the underlying bill here was made in regular order, and many amendments were considered, including the amendment we just voted on. It is an amendment that does keep children safe. In fact, the way to make a mistake here and ensure that the safety of our children is in jeopardy would be to defeat this underlying bill.

This underlying bill does what we were sent here to do. It takes an excel-

lent government program which provides childcare to tens of thousands of veterans and their families. It takes a program that works and says we are going to double down when the Veterans Administration does the right thing and people are satisfied; we will continue that program.

Instead, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to interrupt a great program, and when they could have made an amendment yesterday or when they could introduce new legislation, they want to sideline this successful program that takes care of children.

We had one veteran tell us that this was the best benefit they had been extended in exchange for their service since 1992 and that their child loves the childcare program at the VA, loves the children that they are included with and the people who watch over them while their parent can get treatment. There are tens of thousands of people out there like them.

Mr. Speaker, the motto of the Veterans Administration came from President Lincoln himself. He dared us to strive on, to finish the work we are in, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan—in other words, to take care of the entire family.

This is about family, and through the amendment process, we have made sure that no one will provide childcare to these children who is in serious trouble. We are doing our job. We will continue to strive on. There is no reason to get in the way of this excellent bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have learned a lot in my past year of being here. One important thing that I have learned is that we can always update the references we have made. I have quoted President Lincoln, but my colleague from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is also fond of making more contemporary references.

There is one that occurred to me today as I thought about the message of this bill. As the Pittsburgh Pirates were racing toward the World Series in 1979, they adopted as their slogan the words of the disco stars Sister Sledge: "We are family."

Mr. Speaker, that is what this bill is about. We are family. We will take care of the veterans, and we will take care of their children. We are family. Now get up everybody and vote against this MTR and for the underlying bill.

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

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. BARR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania indicated that the effect of this motion to recommit would kill this bill. We would like a ruling on that, that the motion to recommit would not kill the bill, that it would send the bill back to committee to rectify this problem that jeopardizes the

safety and well-being of the children of our veterans.

Is that true, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. If adopted, the effect of the motion will be that the amendment is reported by the chair of the committee and is immediately before the House.

Mr. BARR. I thank the Chair for the clarification, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 200, noes 214, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 74]

AYES—200

Abraham	Estes	Latta
Aderholt	Ferguson	Lesko
Allen	Finkenauer	Long
Amodei	Fitzpatrick	Loudermilk
Armstrong	Fleischmann	Luetkemeyer
Arrington	Flores	Luria
Axne	Fortenberry	Marchant
Babin	Foxx (NC)	Marshall
Bacon	Fulcher	Massie
Baird	Gallagher	Mast
Balderson	Gianforte	McCarthy
Banks	Gibbs	McCaul
Barr	Gohmert	McClintock
Bergman	Gonzalez (OH)	McHenry
Biggs	Gooden	McKinley
Bilirakis	Gosar	Meadows
Bishop (UT)	Gottheimer	Meuser
Bost	Granger	Miller
Brady	Graves (GA)	Mitchell
Brooks (AL)	Graves (LA)	Moolenaar
Brooks (IN)	Graves (MO)	Mooney (WV)
Buchanan	Green (TN)	Mullin
Buck	Griffith	Newhouse
Bucshon	Grothman	Norman
Budd	Guest	Nunes
Burchett	Guthrie	Olson
Burgess	Hagedorn	Palazzo
Byrne	Harris	Palmer
Calvert	Hartzler	Pence
Carter (GA)	Hern, Kevin	Perry
Carter (TX)	Herrera Beutler	Peterson
Chabot	Hice (GA)	Posey
Cheney	Higgins (LA)	Ratcliffe
Cline	Hill (AR)	Reed
Cloud	Holding	Reschenthaler
Cole	Hollingsworth	Rice (SC)
Collins (GA)	Horn, Kendra S.	Riggleman
Collins (NY)	Hudson	Roby
Comer	Huizenga	Rodgers (WA)
Conaway	Hunter	Roe, David P.
Cook	Hurd (TX)	Rogers (AL)
Crawford	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (KY)
Crenshaw	Johnson (SD)	Rooney (FL)
Cunningham	Jordan	Rose, John W.
Curtis	Joyce (OH)	Rouzer
Davids (KS)	Joyce (PA)	Roy
Davidson (OH)	Katko	Scalise
Davis, Rodney	Kelly (MS)	Schrier
Delgado	Kelly (PA)	Schweikert
DesJarlais	King (IA)	Scott, Austin
Diaz-Balart	King (NY)	Sensenbrenner
Duffy	Kinzinger	Shimkus
Duncan	Kustoff (TN)	Simpson
Dunn	LaHood	Smith (MO)
Emmer	Lamborn	Smith (NE)

Smith (NJ) Tipton Webster (FL)
 Smucker Turner Westernman
 Spano Upton Williams
 Stauber Van Drew Wilson (SC)
 Stefanik Wagner Wittman
 Steil Walberg Womack
 Stewart Walden Woodall
 Stivers Walker Wright
 Taylor Walorski Yoho
 Thompson (PA) Waltz Young
 Thornberry Watkins Zeldin
 Timmons Weber (TX)

NOES—214

Adams Gonzalez (TX) Omar
 Aguilar Green (TX) Pallone
 Amash Grijalva Panetta
 Barragán Haaland Pappas
 Bass Harder (CA) Pascrell
 Beatty Hastings Payne
 Bera Hayes Perlmutter
 Beyer Heck Peters
 Bishop (GA) Higgins (NY) Phillips
 Blumenauer Hill (CA) Pingree
 Blunt Rochester Himes Pocan
 Bonamici Horsford Porter
 Boyle, Brendan Houlihan Pressley
 F. Hoyer Price (NC)
 Brindisi Jackson Lee Quigley
 Brown (MD) Jayapal Raskin
 Brownley (CA) Jeffries Rice (NY)
 Bustos Johnson (GA) Richmond
 Butterfield Johnson (TX) Rose (NY)
 Carbajal Kaptur Rouda
 Cárdenas Keating Roybal-Allard
 Carson (IN) Ruiz Ruiz
 Cartwright Khanna Ruppertsberger
 Case Kildee Rush
 Casten (IL) Kilmer Ryan
 Castor (FL) Kim Sánchez
 Castro (TX) Kind Sarbanes
 Chu, Judy Kirkpatrick Scanlon
 Cicilline Krishnamoorthi Schakowsky
 Cisneros Kuster (NH) Schiff
 Clark (MA) Lamb Schneider
 Clarke (NY) Langevin Schrader
 Clay Larsen (WA) Scott (VA)
 Cleaver Larson (CT) Scott, David
 Cohen Lawrence Serrano
 Cooper Lee (CA) Sewell (AL)
 Correa Lee (NV) Shalala
 Costa Levin (CA) Sherman
 Courtney Levin (MI) Sherrill
 Cox (CA) Lewis Sires
 Craig Lieu, Ted Slotkin
 Crist Lipinski Smith (WA)
 Crow Loeb sack Soto
 Cuellar Lofgren Spanberger
 Cummings Lowenthal Speier
 Davis (CA) Lowey Stanton
 Davis, Danny K. Luján Stevens
 Dean Lynch Suozzi
 DeFazio Malinowski Swalwell (CA)
 DeGette Maloney, Takano
 DeLauro Carolyn B. Thompson (CA)
 DelBene Maloney, Sean Thompson (MS)
 Demings Matsui Titus
 DeSaulnier McAdams Tlaib
 Deutch McBath Tonko
 Doggett McCollum Torres (CA)
 Doyle, Michael McEachin Torres Small
 F. McGovern (NM)
 Engel McNeerney Trahan
 Escobar Meeks Trone
 Eshoo Meng Underwood
 Espaillat Moore Vargas
 Evans Morelle Veasey
 Fletcher Moulton Vela
 Frankel Mucarsel-Powell Velázquez
 Fudge Murphy Visclosky
 Gabbard Nadler Wasserman
 Gallego Napolitano Schultz
 Garamendi Neal Waters
 Garcia (IL) Neguse Welch
 Garcia (TX) Norcross Wexton
 Golden O'Halleran Wild
 Gomez Ocasio-Cortez Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—18

Allred Huffman Lucas
 Clyburn Johnson (LA) Rutherford
 Connolly Jones Steube
 Dingell Kennedy Watson Coleman
 Foster LaMalfa Wenstrup
 Gaetz Lawson (FL) Wilson (FL)

□ 1127

So the motion to recommit was re-
 jected.

The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The
 question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the
 Speaker pro tempore announced that
 the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a
 recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a
 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
 vice, and there were—ayes 400, noes 9,
 not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 75]

AYES—400

Abraham Cox (CA) Hagedorn
 Adams Craig Harder (CA)
 Aderholt Crawford Harris
 Aguilera Crenshaw Hartzler
 Allen Crist Hastings
 Amodei Crow Hayes
 Armstrong Cuellar Heck
 Arrington Cummings Hern, Kevin
 Axne Cunningham Herrera Beutler
 Babin Curtis Hice (GA)
 Bacon Davids (KS) Higgins (LA)
 Baird Davis (CA) Higgins (NY)
 Balderson Davis, Danny K. Hill (AR)
 Banks Davis, Rodney Hill (CA)
 Barr Dean Himes
 Barragán DeFazio Holding
 Bass DeGette Hollingsworth
 Beatty DeLauro Horn, Kendra S.
 Bera DelBene Horsford
 Bergman Delgado Houlihan
 Beyer Demings Hoyer
 Bilirakis DeSaulnier Hudson
 Bishop (GA) DesJarlais Huizenga
 Bishop (UT) Deutch Hunter
 Blumauer Diaz-Balart Hurd (TX)
 Blunt Rochester Doggett Jackson Lee
 Bonamici Doyle, Michael Jayapal
 Bost F. Jeffries
 Boyle, Brendan Duffy Johnson (GA)
 F. Duncan Johnson (OH)
 Brady Dunn Johnson (SD)
 Brindisi Emmer Johnson (TX)
 Brooks (IN) Engel Jordan
 Brown (MD) Escobar Joyce (OH)
 Brownley (CA) Eshoo Joyce (PA)
 Buchanan Espallat Katko
 Buck Estes Katko
 Bucshon Evans Keating
 Burchett Ferguson Kelly (IL)
 Burgess Finkenauer Kelly (MS)
 Bustos Fitzpatrick Kelly (PA)
 Butterfield Fleischmann Khanna
 Byrne Flores Kildee
 Calvert Fortenberry Kilmer
 Carbajal Foe (NC) Kim
 Carson (IN) Frankel Kind
 Carter (GA) Fudge King (IA)
 Carter (TX) Fulcher King (NY)
 Gabbard Gabbard Kinzinger
 Gallagher Gallagher Kirkpatrick
 Gallego Gallego Krishnamoorthi
 Garamendi Garamendi Kuster (NH)
 Castor (FL) Garcia (IL) Kustoff (TN)
 Castro (TX) Garcia (TX) LaHood
 Chabot LaHood Lamb
 Cheney Gianforte Lamborn
 Chu, Judy Gibbs Langevin
 Cicilline Gohmert Larsen (WA)
 Cisneros Golden Larson (CT)
 Clark (MA) Gomez Latte
 Clarke (NY) Gonzalez (OH) Lawrence
 Clay Gonzalez (TX) Lee (CA)
 Cleaver Gooden Lee (NV)
 Cline Gottheimer Lesko
 Cloud Granger Levin (CA)
 Cohen Graves (GA) Levin (MI)
 Cole Graves (LA) Lewis
 Collins (GA) Graves (MO) Lewis
 Collins (NY) Green (TN) Lieu, Ted
 Comer Green (TX) Lipinski
 Conaway Griffith Loeb sack
 Cook Grijalva Lofgren
 Cooper Grothman Long
 Correa Correa Loudermilk
 Costa Guthrie Lowenthal
 Courtney Haaland Lowey

Luetkemeyer Pingree Spano
 Luján Pocan Speier
 Luria Porter Stanton
 Lynch Posey Stauber
 Malinowski Pressley Stefanik
 Maloney, Price (NC) Steil
 Carolyn B. Quigley Stevens
 Maloney, Sean Raskin Stewart
 Marshall Ratcliffe Stivers
 Massie Reed Suozzi
 Mast Reschenthaler Swalwell (CA)
 Matsui Rice (NY) Takano
 McAdams Rice (SC) Taylor
 McBath Richmond Thompson (CA)
 McCarthy Riggelman Thompson (MS)
 McCaul Roby Thompson (PA)
 McClintock Rodgers (WA) Thornberry
 McCollum Roe, David P. Timmons
 McEachin Rogers (AL) Tipton
 McGovern Rogers (KY) Titus
 McHenry Rooney (FL) Tlaib
 McKinley Rose (NY) Tonko
 McNeerney Rose, John W. Torres (CA)
 Meadows Rouda Torres Small
 Meeks Rouzer (NM)
 Meng Roy Trahan
 Miller Roybal-Allard Trone
 Mitchell Ruiz Turner
 Moolenaar Ruppertsberger Underwood
 Moore Rush Upton
 Morelle Ryan Van Drew
 Moulton Sánchez Vargas
 Mucarsel-Powell Sarbanes Veasey
 Mullin Scalise Vela
 Murphy Scanlon Velázquez
 Nadler Schakowsky Visclosky
 Napolitano Schiff Wagner
 Neal Schneider Walberg
 Neguse Schrader Walden
 Newhouse Schrier Walorski
 Norcross Schweikert Waltz
 Norman Scott (VA) Wasserman
 Nunes Scott, Austin Schultz
 O'Halleran Scott, David Waters
 Ocasio-Cortez Serrano Weber (TX)
 Olson Sewell (AL) Webster (FL)
 Omar Shalala Welch
 Palazzo Sherman Westerman
 Pallone Sherrill Wexton
 Palmer Shimkus Wild
 Panetta Simpson Williams
 Pappas Sires Wilson (SC)
 Pascrell Slotkin Wittman
 Payne Smith (MO) Womack
 Pence Smith (NE) Woodall
 Perlmutter Smith (NJ) Wright
 Perry Smith (WA) Yarmuth
 Peters Smucker Yoho
 Peterson Soto Young
 Phillips Spanberger Zeldin

NOES—9

Amash Budd Mooney (WV)
 Biggs Davidson (OH) Sensenbrenner
 Brooks (AL) Gosar Walker

NOT VOTING—23

Allred Huffman Meuser
 Cárdenas Johnson (LA) Rutherford
 Clyburn Jones Steube
 Connolly Kennedy Watkins
 Dingell LaMalfa Watson Coleman
 Fletcher Lawton (FL) Wenstrup
 Foster Lucas Wilson (FL)
 Gaetz Marchant

□ 1134

So the bill was passed.
 The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on
 the table.

Stated for:
 Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, had I been
 present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall
 No. 75.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, as I am back
 home in Dallas, Texas, on paternity leave with
 my family, I submit the following vote expla-
 nation.

Had I been present, I would have voted
 “nay” on rollcall No. 72, “yea” on rollcall No.
 73, “nay” on rollcall No. 74, and “yea” on roll-
 call No. 75.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on February 8, 2019, I missed two recorded votes. Had I been present, on rollcall No. 74, I would have voted no, and on rollcall No. 75, I would have voted yes.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN EN-GROSSMENT OF H.R. 840, VETERANS' ACCESS TO CHILD CARE ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, in the engrossment of H.R. 840, the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, spelling, and cross-references, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House in amending the bill, including the changes now at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the changes.

The Clerk read as follows:

In the amendment offered by Mrs. Radewagen of American Samoa, modify the first amendatory instruction to read "Page 1, line 15"; modify the second amendatory instruction to read "Page 2, after line 24"; and modify the third amendatory instruction to read "Page 2, line 25".

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

There was no objection.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 962, BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of my bill, H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is advised that, under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mrs. WAGNER. A parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman will state her parliamentary inquiry.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I understand the guidelines the Chair just cited. However, seeing no objection from leadership or committee members on either side of the aisle, does that constitute clearance and allow the Chair to entertain my motion under the rules of the House?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As previously stated, the request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

Mrs. WAGNER. Further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman will state her parliamentary inquiry.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, again, seeing no objection on either side of the aisle, can the Chair advise what is required pursuant to section 956 of the House rules to allow my motion for discharge of the Born-Alive Act to be considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is advised that a unanimous consent request for the consideration of that measure would have to receive clearance from the majority and the minority floor and committee leaderships.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, can the ruling of the Chair be challenged?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has not issued a ruling.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask the Chair to rule on the motion of unanimous consent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has sought unanimous consent and has not been recognized for that purpose.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, if this unanimous consent request cannot be entertained, I urge the Speaker and the majority leader to schedule the Born-Alive Act on the floor immediately so we can stand up and defend the sanctity of life.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is engaging in debate and has not been recognized for debate.

Mrs. WAGNER. This bill, Mr. Speaker, does not impose any restrictions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman will suspend. The gentlewoman is engaging in debate.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 113

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Mr. Ratcliffe, Mr. Holding, Mrs. Walorski, Mr. Guest.

Ms. CHENEY (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise for the purpose of inquiring of the majority leader the schedule for the week to come.

Madam Speaker, before I yield to the gentleman from Maryland, I want to share and join in with him in the tribute that has been paid to our former colleague John Dingell.

I served proudly on the House Energy and Commerce Committee with Chairman Dingell, and what a giant, what a true institutionalist of this House, the longest serving Member, a colleague of whom we will have fond memories and will share those fond memories, I am sure, in the days and weeks to come.

I know, Madam Speaker, and to my colleague from Maryland as well, every time we go into that room, the committee room for the Energy and Commerce Committee, we always get to look up now and know that it is named after our colleague John Dingell and always remember his wit—because he was tough, but he had a great wit to share along with the combat that you would always get to engage in with him.

I will always remember, when the vote was finally called, he always had his own unique way. As the clerk would be calling the roll of the committee and they would call a member and the member would say "aye" or "nay," he would always say: "Dingell votes aye."

He would have his unique way of addressing the issue of the day, and we will always remember him. To his wife, DEBBIE, and his family, we keep him in our prayers.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend Mr. SCALISE, the Republican whip, for his comments. It is a testimony to the love and respect that John Dingell enjoyed in this House from both sides of the aisle.

As I said earlier, Madam Speaker, there is no one in this House who doesn't have a particular story about John Dingell. So, before we begin this colloquy, I want to again express my gratitude for the life and service of my friend John Dingell.

Madam Speaker, I was with him Wednesday. He died yesterday. I was with him the day before he died. We sat together for 2½ hours and talked. As I left, I leaned down and I kissed him on the forehead, and I said: "I love you, John."

I think I was speaking for, literally, scores of Members who worked with him on the committee, who worked with him on the floor, and who saw him in various different venues as a colleague.

□ 1145

They loved him as well for his integrity and for his fairness. And, yes, as the gentleman from Louisiana said, he could be tough, and he could be rough, but he also could be gentle and accepting and open.

All of us in this country were blessed by his time on this Earth, so much of