

the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2334.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOMELESS VETERAN FAMILIES ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 95) to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that children of homeless veterans are included in the calculation of the amounts of certain per diem grants.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 95

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Homeless Veteran Families Act”.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS OF PER DIEM GRANTS.

Section 2012(a)(2)(B) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) in clause (i), by inserting “or (iii)” after “clause (ii)”; and
- (2) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) With respect to a homeless veteran who has care of a minor dependent while receiving services from the grant recipient or eligible entity, the daily cost of care shall be the sum of the daily cost of care determined under subparagraph (A) plus, for each such minor dependent, an amount that equals 50 percent of such daily cost of care.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 95.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 95, the Homeless Veteran Families Act.

H.R. 95 was introduced by Representative JULIA BROWNLEY, chair of the Subcommittee on Health and a tireless advocate for women veterans and their children.

This bill would ensure that children of homeless veterans are included in the calculation of per diem grants to organizations supporting homeless veterans and their families. By including children in this calculation, homeless veterans and their children will receive much-needed housing and supportive

services, which will reduce the rate of homelessness among the veteran population.

Mr. Speaker, since 1994, VA’s homeless grant and per diem program has provided homeless veterans with community-based transitional housing and supportive services. The grant per diem program annually offers funding to community agencies that provide supportive services to homeless veterans. It promotes the development and provision of supportive housing and supportive services, with the goal of helping homeless veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and income, and obtain greater self-determination.

However, many homeless veterans with children are unable to obtain transitional housing and support assistance through the program because providers only receive payments from VA for the veteran, not their dependent children. Many housing providers have been unable to house homeless veterans who are accompanied by their dependent children without additional financial support.

Mr. Speaker, current law limits VA’s authority to reimburse the additional costs associated with sheltering the dependent children of homeless veterans, which has resulted in many grant per diem service providers not accepting homeless veterans with dependent children.

This has resulted in a lack of access to supportive housing and services for veterans with children, as these veterans are forced to choose between receipt of housing assistance and supportive services and caring for their children. This is especially true for many women veterans who have children and who are also homeless.

This legislation would authorize VA to pay a partial per diem to grant per diem service providers supporting our Nation’s homeless veterans with children. For each child accompanying a homeless veteran, the service provider would receive per diem at a 50 percent rate for each child.

This committee is committed to addressing and ending homelessness, and this legislation is one step toward this end.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, Economic Opportunity Subcommittee Chairman LEVIN and Ranking Member BILIRAKIS held two field hearings in San Diego, California, and Tampa, Florida, to learn more about how VA can better coordinate with local organizations to end veteran homelessness. This bill is the first of many solutions, some of which have been identified from these bipartisan hearings of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee.

The full committee will continue to work together to find bipartisan solutions to end veteran homelessness. H.R. 95 has 301 cosponsors, which demonstrates this Chamber’s commitment to ending veteran homelessness and to working together to improve the lives of the veterans we represent.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 95, the Homeless Veteran Families Act. This bill would amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program to provide payments to GPD providers for the services they provide to the children of homeless veterans.

Mr. Speaker, while VA and other partners have been very successful in decreasing the number of homeless veterans in the country by almost 50 percent since 2010, we still have an unacceptable number of veterans on the streets every night.

The GPD program is a tool in VA’s arsenal to help community organizations provide services to homeless veterans by reimbursing them for providing temporary housing and supportive services that promote health and self-sufficiency among homeless veterans.

However, under current rules, community partners are not authorized funding for providing services and shelter to the dependents of the homeless veterans who they serve. This forces these organizations to make a difficult choice of turning away homeless veterans with children or finding another source of funding to provide services for them.

H.R. 95 would address this issue by amending current law to authorize grant and per diem payments for the children of homeless veterans at half the amount paid for each homeless veteran.

While I have some concerns about using medical care dollars to provide these services, as they may detract from the already limited resources available for providing services for homeless veterans themselves, I am not going to oppose this approach today. I want what is best for our veterans, and if this change helps community partners provide the services they need to homeless veteran families, then it is worthy of our support.

I thank the gentlewoman from California, my friend, Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY, for sponsoring this bill, which has my full support, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY), my good friend, the chairwoman of the Health Subcommittee, and the author of this bill.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding this afternoon, and I thank the ranking member of the committee for his support of a very, very important bill for our veterans, the Homeless Veteran Families Act.

As a member of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, I believe that it is absolutely critical that veterans and their families receive the housing support they need simply to get back on their feet.

Since 1994, the VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program has provided homeless veterans with community-based transitional housing and supportive services. This program funds community agencies that provide such services to homeless veterans.

In fiscal year 2017 alone, the VA funded 600 community sites that provided housing to more than 23,000 veterans through the use of over 12,000 transitional housing beds nationwide.

Unfortunately, many homeless veterans with children are unable to obtain transitional housing and the support assistance they need under the homeless grant program because housing providers only receive payments from the VA for the veteran but not for any minor dependents with their families.

Because housing a family requires more resources and beds, many housing providers have been unable to house homeless families without additional financial support. This problem has resulted in the lack of access to very needed supportive housing and services for veterans with children because the veteran is forced to choose between getting their own housing assistance and services or caring for their minor dependent child or children.

The VA has previously stated that approximately 8 percent of veterans who entered grant per diem housing programs, and who had a full assessment completed within 30 days prior to admission, had either full or partial legal custody of their children. This was estimated to be 2,500 children in fiscal year 2017.

No veteran should be forced to choose between housing and much-needed services or caring for their children. However, current law limits the VA's authority to reimburse housing providers for the additional costs associated with sheltering the dependent children of our homeless veterans.

My bill, which we are voting on today, would provide for a partial per diem for each minor child who is receiving services through this program. This partial per diem would be an amount equal to 50 percent of the daily cost of care. This would ensure that veterans and their children are able to obtain the housing and services needed to help them achieve residential stability; give them the opportunity to increase their skill level and income; and, ultimately, obtain greater self-determination and self-worth.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. TAKANO. I yield the gentlewoman from California an additional 1 minute.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, providing housing to our Nation's homeless veterans is an essential first step and critical to everything in a veteran's life, including getting the healthcare they have earned, taking advantage of veteran education benefits, getting a job, and having the quality of life they have earned and de-

served—and what our country has promised.

Passage of this legislation will benefit veterans of all eras and their minor children who are struggling and suffering with homelessness.

My bill has over 300 cosponsors, which is indicative of the bipartisan support for addressing this important and time-sensitive issue. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I thank the chairman for bringing my bill to the floor.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN). She was a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and a very passionate supporter of our veterans.

After the hurricanes in Puerto Rico, she was kind enough to invite me. I saw her passion. We went through the VA hospital together, the outpatient clinics. I don't believe anyone in this Congress has more care for our veterans than her.

□ 1730

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend for allowing me to speak and for his visit. And actually, that was the first time ever the Veterans' Affairs Committee had a hearing in Puerto Rico in more than 100 years. So we got two chairmen in Puerto Rico in the last 2 years, and I am happy to say that Mr. ROE and Mr. TAKANO were there this year.

And actually I have got good news. Finally, we got the money assigned for the new clinic in Arecibo and the new clinic in Ponce after that visit. So that is real good news. And we just received a VA deputy last week, and they are talking about expanding the services of the hospital, which is good.

Today I rise in full support of H.R. 95, the Homeless Veteran Families Act introduced by my colleague JULIA BROWNLEY of California.

Homelessness is, unfortunately, one of the challenges many of our veterans face upon separating from the Armed Forces. Consequently, the Department of Veterans Affairs has made ending homelessness part of their core mission.

Initiatives like the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, which funds community agencies that provide services to homeless veterans, facilitates tackling these problems head-on.

H.R. 95 builds upon this program by authorizing the Department of Veterans Affairs to pay partial per diem for children who are under the care of a homeless veteran. We need to keep in mind that homelessness can affect our veterans at any point, impacting not only their lives, but the lives of their children.

Recent estimates indicate that there are close to 82 homeless veterans in Puerto Rico, and we need to take this personally because they just can't

move to another state. With us living on an island, we have got to have our community being served, and a program like Homeless Providers Grant and the Per Diem Program will help us lower this number to zero and will counter the inability of providers of these services to turn down helping a veteran because he or she has children under their care.

And I think that is the most important thing about this bill. It is not only the veteran themselves that suffers, it is the family that suffers with him or with her, and that is the reason I am a proud cosponsor of this bill.

I commend Congresswoman BROWNLEY for her leadership on this issue, and, of course, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill. I think it is important to recognize that we all need to take care of these kinds of issues.

I thank Congressman ROE and Chairman TAKANO for visiting the island this year. I think this is the first time ever that Puerto Rico has received visits from two chairmen, and that means something for the more than 105,000 veterans registered on the island.

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

I think this is a great bill. Homelessness is a huge problem in this country, and keeping our families together is a huge problem in this country. This, I think, will be some of the best money that we ever spend, if we can keep these families together. If a veteran is out there with their spouse and they are trying the best they can, they need these resources so they can keep that family unit together.

This bill should go through the House and the Senate unanimously. I think it will, and with over 300 cosponsors, I feel like it will.

I want to thank Congresswoman BROWNLEY, who is a tireless supporter of veterans on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I thank her for bringing this up, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, H.R. 95.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I certainly also want to congratulate and thank Congresswoman BROWNLEY, the Chair of our Health Subcommittee, for bringing this legislation forward. And I also want to also express my gratitude to Ranking Member ROE, former Chairman ROE. We both made a commitment to the territory of Puerto Rico, and we want the people of Puerto Rico to know that on a bipartisan basis the Veterans' Affairs Committee cares about the service and the benefits that are owed to the veterans of Puerto Rico.

So I urge all of my colleagues to pass H.R. 95, which addresses a critical need for veterans that have children and who are in need of housing to prevent them from being homeless. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 95, the "Homeless Veteran Families Act."

H.R. 95 updates the Department of Veterans Affairs per diem payment calculation for entities furnishing services to homeless veterans to include funding for a minor dependent.

The rate for per diem payments is the daily cost of care as estimated by the grant recipient or eligible entity.

This bill would expand the per diem payment amount for a homeless veteran who has care of a minor dependent to the daily cost of care, plus, for each minor dependent, an amount that equals 50 percent of such daily cost of care.

This bill is an intrinsic part of a much greater national movement to recognize the transitional needs of all Veterans and their families nationwide.

Our Veterans are America's indispensable asset; their dedication to the United States Military and protecting the lives of the American people is to be commended.

Lack of access to childcare presents a unique safety hazard to homeless veterans' families, and puts a unique pressure on the shelters and facilities in Houston.

Less than 3 percent of Veterans experiencing homelessness (2.9 percent) were in families with children.

Veteran women experiencing homelessness are more likely to be a part of a family with children, compared to Veteran men.

Because of a lack of affordable health treatment and job prospects, veterans represent about 12 percent of America's homeless population, and approximately 50,000 veterans are homeless each night.

This bill will allow homeless veterans with children to receive enhanced child care services.

When enacted, H.R. 95 will alleviate the financial burdens homeless veterans experience with child care and assist them to transition into the workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 95 to expand resources for homeless veterans with children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 95.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS CENTERED IN COLOMBIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-74)

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

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond October 21, 2019.

The circumstances that led to the declaration on October 21, 1995, of a national emergency continue to exist. The actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause an extreme level of violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia.

DONALD J. TRUMP,
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 15, 2019.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

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

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1815, SEC DISCLOSURE EFFECTIVENESS TESTING ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3624, OUTSOURCING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2019

Mr. DESAULNIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-237) on the resolution (H. Res. 629) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1815) to require the Securities and Exchange Commission, when developing rules and regulations about disclosures to retail investors, to conduct investor testing, including a survey and interviews of retail investors, and for other purposes,

and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3624) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the disclosure of the total number of domestic and foreign employees of certain public companies, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 2385; and

H.R. 95.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR CEMETERY RESEARCH AND PRODUCING EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2385) to permit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 1, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 556]

YEAS—409

Abraham	Boyle, Brendan F.	Chu, Judy
Adams	Brady	Cicilline
Aderholt	Brindisi	Cisneros
Aguilar	Brooks (AL)	Clark (MA)
Allen	Brooks (IN)	Clarke (NY)
Allred	Brown (MD)	Clay
Amodei	Brownley (CA)	Cleaver
Armstrong	Buchanan	Cline
Arrington	Buck	Cloud
Axne	Buschon	Clyburn
Babin	Budd	Cohen
Bacon	Burchett	Cole
Baird	Burgess	Collins (GA)
Balderson	Bustos	Comer
Banks	Butterfield	Conaway
Barr	Byrne	Connolly
Barragán	Calvert	Cook
Bass	Carbajal	Cooper
Bera	Cárdenas	Correa
Berman	Carson (IN)	Costa
Beyer	Carter (GA)	Courtney
Biggs	Carter (TX)	Cox (CA)
Bilirakis	Cartwright	Craig
Bishop (GA)	Case	Crawford
Bishop (UT)	Casten (IL)	Crenshaw
Blumenauer	Castor (FL)	Crist
Blunt Rochester	Chabot	Crow
Bonamici	Cheney	Cuellar
Bost		Cunningham