

put it best when he described Boots to Business as helping servicemembers take a “step in the direction of entrepreneurship and foster and channel the warrior ethos that had them succeed in the military to boost success in the boardroom.”

H.R. 3537 is a commonsense move and one supported by The American Legion.

I, again, thank my colleague Mr. SPANO for joining me in introducing this legislation.

We all duly and respectfully observed Veterans Day on Monday. Every day, we must reinforce our obligation to servicemembers by giving them the education and tools to seize the opportunity of entrepreneurship.

Again, I thank the chairwoman and ranking member for their support, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3537.

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. SCHNEIDER. 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.

PATRIOTIC EMPLOYER PROTECTION ACT OF 2019

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3661) to support entrepreneurs serving in the National Guard and Reserve, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3661

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 “Patriotic Employer Protection Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF LOAN ASSISTANCE AND DEFERRAL ELIGIBILITY TO RESERVISTS BEYOND PERIODS OF MILITARY CONFLICT.

(a) SMALL BUSINESS ACT AMENDMENTS.—Section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking clause (ii);

(ii) by redesignating clause (i) as clause (ii);

(iii) by inserting before clause (ii), as so redesignated, the following:

“(i) the term ‘active service’ has the meaning given that term in section 101(d)(3) of title 10, United States Code;”; and

(iv) in clause (ii), as so redesignated, by adding “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “being ordered to active military duty during a pe-

riod of military conflict” and inserting “being ordered to perform active service for a period of more than 30 consecutive days”;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “active duty” each place it appears and inserting “active service”; and

(D) in subparagraph (G)(ii)(II), by striking “active duty” and inserting “active service”; and

(2) in subsection (n)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “ACTIVE DUTY” and inserting “ACTIVE SERVICE”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (C);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively;

(iii) by inserting before subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, the following:

“(A) ACTIVE SERVICE.—The term ‘active service’ has the meaning given that term in section 101(d)(3) of title 10, United States Code.”;

(iv) in subparagraph (B), as so redesigned, by striking “ordered to active duty during a period of military conflict” and inserting “ordered to perform active service for a period of more than 30 consecutive days”; and

(v) in subparagraph (D), by striking “active duty” each place it appears and inserting “active service”; and

(C) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “active duty” each place it appears and inserting “active service”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a)(1) shall apply to an economic injury suffered or likely to be suffered as the result of an essential employee being ordered to perform active service (as defined in section 101(d)(3) of title 10, United States Code) for a period of more than 30 consecutive days who is discharged or released from such active service on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) SEMIANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and semiannually thereafter, the President shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the number of loans made under the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and the dollar volume of those loans. The report shall contain the subsidy rate of the disaster loan program as authorized under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) with the loans made under the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and without those loans included.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “The Administration” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administration”;

(2) by striking “(as defined in section

7(n)(1))”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) DEFINITION OF PERIOD OF MILITARY CONFLICT.—In this subsection, the term ‘period of military conflict’ means—

“(A) a period of war declared by the Congress;

“(B) a period of national emergency declared by the Congress or by the President; or

“(C) a period of a contingency operation, as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.”.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3661, the Patriotic Employer Protection Act of 2019.

Mr. Speaker, this commonsense legislation recognizes the service of our reservists and the companies they work at by broadening the ability of small business employers to access loans when a reservist is deployed.

Across the country, small business owners are doing the right thing by actively employing military reservists. Congress recognized the strain a small business can be under when key employees are deployed on missions. That is why this distinguished body created the SBA’s military reservist programs, which are the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and the Repayment Deferral for Active Duty Reservists program. These two programs provide emergency working capital and loan flexibility to small business owners who have an essential employee who is an Active Duty reservist called into action.

Over the past decade, our Reserve Forces have experienced a shift from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve. This bill addresses that shift by expanding the pool of eligible reservists through a restructuring of the programs so they are not limited to periods of conflict.

This seemingly minor modification, in addition to increased coordination between the SBA and the National Guard Bureau and State Adjutants General, will lead to targeted outreach and education about the programs while also modernizing them to meet the needs of today’s small employers.

I thank Congressman KIM and Congressman BURCHETT for working with me to improve access to affordable capital for small businesses, especially those owned by or who employ reservists.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bipartisan piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3661, the Patriotic Employer Protection Act of 2019.

Mr. Speaker, nearly half of all employees in the United States work for a small business. These employees come from every State and territory, and every congressional district. Many of them also serve our Nation proudly.

When these men and women are called up for military duty, the small business that they work for may be at a disadvantage due to their absence. If a small business experiences an economic loss due to the essential employee being called up to duty, the small business has the ability to apply for a Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan through the SBA.

To modernize this loan program, H.R. 3661, this bill, adds employees who are also on full-time National Guard duty to the eligibility list. This reform further aligns this SBA program with the way today's military operates.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) for working in a bipartisan manner on behalf of the Nation's military servicemembers. Additionally, I thank the chairwoman, as usual, for moving this legislation forward in a bipartisan manner.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, which was favorably reported out of committee via voice vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KIM), my friend and colleague who is a sponsor of this bill.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand up for small business owners across our country who want to do the patriotic thing and provide economic opportunities to those serving in the military Reserves.

I represent Burlington County and Ocean County in New Jersey, home to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Approximately 5,500 reservists are currently serving at our joint base, and 99 percent of New Jersey businesses are classified as small businesses.

For those small business owners who are members of the Reserves or want to hire reservists, there is uncertainty and risks that come with unexpected deployments and activations to Active Duty. During times of war, we not only ask these reservists to sacrifice during their service but to sacrifice their economic well-being.

In 2003, during the Iraq war, a small business owner and servicemember named Stanley Adams was called to

Active Duty. Mr. Adams, who owned two thriving livestock trailer companies, had to close one down and saw revenue plummet during his deployment. In an interview, Mr. Adams said, "Everything came to a halt, and all this money still had to be paid."

We owe our servicemembers more than that. Serving our country shouldn't be a barrier to those who want to start or work for a small business. We should reward these patriots, not create an environment of economic uncertainty.

That is why I am proud to introduce the bipartisan Patriotic Employer Protection Act with Congressman BURCHETT. The Patriotic Employer Protection Act would restructure two programs—the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and the Repayment Deferral for Active Duty Reservists program—so that they better reflect the current deployment trends of reservists. The bill would allow these programs to be used for any reservists being ordered to Active Duty for a period of more than 30 consecutive days, broadening the program to more people in need.

In addition, the bill would create a new business training program to provide counseling and assistance to support members of the Reserves and their spouses, as well as direct the Small Business Administration to develop more targeted and effective outreach to reservists and small business owners.

The American Legion, which has endorsed this bill, has called these important programs "underutilized because their eligibility restrictions do not fully reflect current deployment practices." This bill fixes that and empowers small business owners across the country to provide a path to the American Dream for those servicemembers who fight to protect it every day.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join myself and Congressman BURCHETT in supporting this bill.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT), the Republican leader on this particular bill.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Patriotic Employer Protection Act. I am proud of this bipartisan legislation that encourages small business owners to hire military reservists.

Military reservists bravely serve America and are also members of our Nation's small business workforce. In east Tennessee and throughout America, small business owners rely on the abilities and skills of reservists. When an employee is activated from the Reserves to answer the call of duty, small businesses should not struggle while that employee is absent.

This legislation improves small businesses' access to Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Repayment Deferral for Active Duty Reservists. These programs offer finan-

cial support to small businesses that lose valuable production when a reservist is activated for military service.

By improving access to these programs, small businesses can continue to operate while an employee is serving in the military. Additionally, it gives small businesses peace of mind that their businesses will not suffer in the absence of military reservists.

It takes courage to put your livelihood and career on hold to serve our country, and small businesses should be proud of their employees' military commitments.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to champion this legislation with Representative KIM, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, a small business should not be disadvantaged if the men and women who they employ are called to military duty.

H.R. 3661 updates the SBA's Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program to ensure it aligns with today's military.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation. I thank Mr. BURCHETT and Mr. KIM for their leadership on this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I, too, commend and thank Representative KIM and Representative BURCHETT for their leadership on this. The Small Business Committee, as a whole, commends those small business owners who support their employees serving in the National Guard and Reserves and thereby support our national security.

Reservists can be called away at a moment's notice and fulfill their duty in a variety of ways. For instance, we rely on them during our most vulnerable times, like during natural disasters, and they can be tapped to serve abroad when needed and necessary.

They protect us and our communities by leaving their lives and communities behind. Though they may be called upon temporarily, their absence is sorely noticed by their families and employers who rely upon them.

The bill before us today, H.R. 3661, takes their absence into consideration by reflecting how our Nation has changed the way we call upon them. By making the SBA's Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Repayment Deferral for Active Duty Reservists programs more accessible to servicemembers and their employers, we are helping to sustain small businesses, families, and local communities.

This legislation makes sure that the SBA can be a resource for when employers support their workers while on deployment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3661, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS
SMALL BUSINESS CONTINUATION
ACT

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 499) to amend the Small Business Act to clarify the treatment of certain surviving spouses under the definition of small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 499

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 “Service-Disabled Veterans Small Business Continuation Act”.

SEC. 2. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT REGARDING TREATMENT OF CERTAIN SURVIVING SPOUSES UNDER THE DEFINITION OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.

Effective on the date specified in subsection (e) of section 1832 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328; 130 Stat. 2660), section 3(q)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C)(i)(II), by striking “rated as 100 percent” and all that follows through “service-connected disability”; and

(2) by amending subparagraph (C)(ii)(III) to read as follows:

“(III) the date that—

“(aa) in the case of a surviving spouse of a veteran with a service-connected disability rated as 100 percent disabling or who dies as a result of a service-connected disability, is 10 years after the date of the death of the veteran; or

“(bb) in the case of a surviving spouse of a veteran with a service-connected disability rated as less than 100 percent disabling who does not die as a result of a service-connected disability, is 3 years after the date of the death of the veteran.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 499, the Service-Disabled Veterans Small Business Continuation Act, which protects small businesses owned by disabled veterans by providing a transitional period to keep service-disabled veteran-owned small business status in the event of the business owner’s death. This bill codifies our intention to bridge the differences between the SBA and VA by establishing uniformity.

We know that running a small business often involves many members of a family. By extending surviving spousal rights to the SDVOSB definition, we are honoring the sacrifice a deceased veteran previously made for our country. We are also providing stability for the business and its employees to ensure that they can remain competitive, rather than being effectively penalized by the death of the service-disabled veteran business owner.

I thank Ranking Member CHABOT and Mr. DELGADO for working together to ensure that when a disabled veteran business owner passes, the law does not impose insult to injury by penalizing the surviving spouse.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bipartisan piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 499, the Service-Disabled Veteran Small Business Continuation Act.

First, I would like to thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member ROE of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee for their leadership and collaboration on this issue. I would also like to thank the gentleman from New York, a member of our Small Business Committee, Mr. DELGADO, for his willingness to work with me and be a leader on this legislation.

I, like all Members of this body, hear from many constituents on a wide range of issues. One issue that is particularly important to me and the folks in my district is to ensure that veterans and their families are treated fairly by the government that they have served so bravely.

Many of our men and women in uniform come home after serving and decide to use their considerable talents to become small business owners. Unfortunately, the laws and regulations around starting a business can be difficult to navigate—almost prohibitive—when they shouldn’t be. Further exacerbating the problem is when one part of the law says one thing, yet another part of the law says something entirely different.

How can we expect our veterans to come home and become successful entrepreneurs when our laws are often

unclear? That is why this bill, H.R. 499, is so important. While Congress has already codified in title 38 a common-sense policy allowing the surviving spouse of the service-disabled veteran small business owner to retain the company’s SDVOSB status for a certain length of time, the Small Business Act has no such policy and this lack of parity creates legal uncertainty in the application of the law and confusion for veterans and their families.

H.R. 499 provides clarity in the law by ensuring continuity across the government in the way we treat our veteran entrepreneurs and their families. The bill amends the Small Business Act to align with title 38, guaranteeing that the surviving spouses of service-disabled veteran small business owners can keep the valuable SDVOSB small business designation for their companies for a certain period of time, even after the veteran owner passes away.

Correcting this misalignment in the law is the least we can do to provide our Nation’s heroes and their families with some measure of comfort and peace of mind, especially when dealing with this type of family tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO).

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague Representative SCHNEIDER from Illinois for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the first bill I introduced as a Member of Congress, the bipartisan Service-Disabled Veterans Small Business Continuation Act.

This legislation which I introduced with Members from both sides of the aisle, Ranking Member CHABOT, Congressman JACK BERGMAN, and Representative CORREA, responds to the critical need to ensure that spouses of service-disabled veterans can start or continue operating a small business after the veteran’s passing.

The spouses, families, and loved ones of our servicemembers carry enormous burdens. Not only do they make sacrifices to support their loved ones in the military, they are integral to the transition back to civilian life.

The Service-Disabled Veterans Small Business Continuation Act seeks to address one of the many burdens carried by the spouses of our military veterans. Rightfully so, both the Small Business Administration, and the VA give contracting preferences to small businesses owned by service-disabled veterans. However, currently, when the veteran dies, only a small handful of spouses can retain that contracting preference. That is because this contracting preference is only given to the spouses of veterans with a 100 percent disability.

Spouses of service-disabled veterans should be able to retain this preference