

down on paper and making it happen in real life, and we were seeing huge numbers of disabled veterans not take advantage of this program either because they didn't know about it or because the process of applying for it was just too burdensome, there was too much paperwork, or it took too long.

If you have a 100 percent disability rating, there is a lot in your life you have to worry about besides doing paperwork; so Congressman WATKINS, Congressman FITZPATRICK and another great western Pennsylvanian, Congressman GUY RESCHENTHALER, and I were all looking at the same set of facts and said: We know what we need to do here. We already know these people have a 100 percent disability rating. Let's just make the loan forgiveness automatic. That was the genesis for this bill.

I want to acknowledge that the administration and President Trump did the right thing here. They noticed this same problem last year, and they began to automatically forgive these loans by executive order. The problem was that there was some legal uncertainty about exactly who had the authority to forgive the loans how fast and when.

Our understanding is that some disputes developed between OMB and the Department of Education, and it was slowing down the ability of veterans to take advantage of this thing that they are already entitled to by virtue of how much they have given to this country. So our bill was necessary to make sure that everybody involved knew they have the legal authority to forgive these loans.

By this time next year, assuming we are able to get this through the Senate and to the President's desk for his signature, that number you heard from Congressman COURTNEY of 25,000 veterans whose loans are in default and an even higher number of tens of thousands more who haven't taken advantage of that should be zero.

We are making an unequivocal statement today that, if you have given so much to this country that you have a 100 percent disability rating, you do not need to worry about your Federal student loans any longer.

It is our job to remove obstacles from the paths of people who have given so much to this country. We all believe that there is much to be done on the subject of student loans, but what we want to make sure is that these brave Americans are first in line when we do that, and that is what our bill does.

It is very common in America these days to hear people spot a veteran and say, "Thank you for your service." I think the important thing about this bill is that it is Republicans and Democrats, Congress and the President all working together to say, "Thank you for your service"—not only in words, but in actions. That is what this bill means.

I am so grateful to have had the support of so many hardworking Members

who look forward to seeing this bill pass today, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the FREED Vets Act mandates that the Department of Education automatically discharge Federal student loan debt for eligible permanently disabled veterans. The staggering student loan debt crisis harms the financial security of many Americans, including the women and men who have honorably served our Nation.

Our Nation's veterans have sacrificed immensely for our freedom and our way of life, and it is unacceptable that many disabled veterans continue to be saddled with high levels of student debt. The least we can do for them, Mr. Speaker, is to forgive the Federal student loans for those who have served our country.

The VA established a program in 2018 to forgive veteran student debt, but the barrier of going through the processes meant that only 20 percent of those eligible veterans received the assistance they deserved. This strong bipartisan bill makes student loan forgiveness for these vets automatic.

I thank my friend, Congressman LAMB from Pennsylvania, for leading this bill, and I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand with our veterans today and vote for H.R. 3598.

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

I thank the President for all he has done for our veterans. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. LAMB) as well as the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for all of their hard work in making this piece of legislation a reality.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3598.

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As my colleagues have heard today, this legislation would require the Department to continue ensuring that veterans who are totally and permanently disabled can have their student loan debt discharged without unnecessary complexity.

Think about it, without unnecessary complexity.

All this legislation does is streamline a process so those who have been totally and permanently disabled can have peace of mind and economic freedom. We owe it to those who have served our country to make this process as simple as possible, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COURTNEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) that the House sus-

pend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3598, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DEMINGS) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

## 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:

Suspending the rules and:

Agreeing to H. Res. 756; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

## MOVING OUR DEMOCRACY AND CONGRESSIONAL OPERATIONS TOWARDS MODERNIZATION RESOLUTION

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 agree to the resolution (H. Res. 756) implementing recommendations adopted by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 13, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 93]

YEAS—395

Abraham	Amodei	Balderson
Adams	Armstrong	Banks
Aderholt	Arrington	Barr
Aguilar	Axne	Barragán
Allen	Babin	Bass
Allred	Bacon	Beatty
Amash	Baird	Bera

Bergman	Flores	Lowenthal	Schweikert	Suozi	Walden	Courtney	King (IA)	Ruppersberger
Beyer	Foster	Lowey	Scott (VA)	Swalwell (CA)	Walker	Cox (CA)	Kinzing	Rutherford
Bilirakis	Fox (NC)	Lucas	Scott, Austin	Takano	Walorski	Crist	Kirkpatrick	Sánchez
Bishop (GA)	Frankel	Luetkemeyer	Scott, David	Taylor	Waltz	Davids (KS)	Krishnamoorthi	Sarbanes
Bishop (NC)	Fulcher	Lujan	Serrano	Thompson (CA)	Wasserman	Davidson (OH)	Kuster (NH)	Scanlon
Bishop (UT)	Gabbard	Luria	Sewell (AL)	Thompson (PA)	Schultz	Davis (CA)	Lamb	Schakowsky
Blumenauer	Gallagher	Lynch	Shalala	Thornberry	Waters	Davis, Danny K.	Langevin	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Gallego	Malinowski	Sherman	Timmons	Watkins	Dean	Larsen (WA)	Schneider
Bonamici	Garamendi	Maloney,	Sherrill	Tipton	Watson Coleman	DeFazio	Larson (CT)	Schrier
Bost	Garcia (IL)	Carolyn B.	Shimkus	Titus	Weber (TX)	DeGette	Lawrence	Schweikert
Boyle, Brendan	Garcia (TX)	Maloney, Sean	Simpson	Tlaib	Webster (FL)	DeLauro	Lawson (FL)	Scott (VA)
F.	Gianforte	Marchant	Sires	Tonko	Welch	DelBene	Lee (CA)	Scott, David
Brady	Gibbs	Marshall	Slotkin	Torres (CA)	Wenstrup	Delgado	Lesko	Serrano
Brindisi	Golden	Matsui	Smith (MO)	Torres Small	Westerman	Demings	Levin (CA)	Shalala
Brooks (IN)	Gomez	McAdams	Smith (NE)	(NM)	Wexton	DeSaulnier	Levin (MI)	Sherman
Brown (MD)	Gonzalez (OH)	McBath	Smith (NJ)	Trahan	Wild	Dingell	Lipinski	Simpson
Buchanan	Gonzalez (TX)	McCarthy	Smith (WA)	Trone	Williams	Doggett	Loeb sack	Sires
Bucshon	Gooden	McCaul	Smucker	Turner	Wilson (FL)	Doyle, Michael	Lofgren	Slotkin
Budd	Gottheimer	McClintock	Soto	Underwood	Wilson (SC)	F.	Lowenthal	Smith (NJ)
Burchett	Granger	McCollum	Spanberger	Upton	Wittman	Engel	Lowey	Smith (WA)
Burgess	Graves (LA)	McEachin	Spano	Van Drew	Womack	Escobar	Luetkemeyer	Soto
Bustos	Graves (MO)	McGovern	Stanton	Vargas	Woodall	Eshoo	Lujan	Stanton
Butterfield	Green (TN)	McHenry	Stauber	Veasey	Wright	Espallat	Luria	Staubert
Byrne	Green, Al (TX)	McKinley	Stefanik	Vela	Yarmuth	Evans	Lynch	Stefanik
Calvert	Grijalva	McNerney	Steil	Velázquez	Young	Fletcher	Malinowski	Steil
Carbajal	Guest	Meeks	Steube	Visclosky	Zeldin	Foster	Carolyn B.	Stewart
Cárdenas	Guthrie	Meng	Stevens	Wagner		Frankel	McBath	Suozi
Carson (IN)	Haaland	Meuser	Stewart	Walberg		Gabbard	McClintock	Takano
Carter (GA)	Hagedorn	Miller				Gallego	McCollum	Taylor
Carter (TX)	Harder (CA)	Mitchell				Garamendi	McEachin	Thornberry
Cartwright	Harris	Moolenaar				Garcia (IL)	McGovern	Titus
Case	Hartzler	Mooney (WV)				Garcia (TX)	McNerney	Tlaib
Casten (IL)	Hastings	Moore				Gomez	Meeks	Torres (CA)
Castor (FL)	Hayes	Morrell				Gonzalez (OH)	Moolenaar	Torres Small
Castro (TX)	Heck	Moulton				Granger	Moore	(NM)
Chabot	Hern, Kevin	Mucarsel-Powell				Green, Al (TX)	Morelle	Trahan
Cheney	Herrera Beutler	Murphy (FL)				Haaland	Murphy (FL)	Trone
Chu, Judy	Hice (GA)	Murphy (NC)				Hastings	Nadler	Turner
Cicilline	Higgins (LA)	Nadler				Hayes	Napolitano	Underwood
Cisneros	Higgins (NY)	Napolitano				Heck	Neal	Van Drew
Clark (MA)	Hill (AR)	Neal				Herrera Beutler	Neguse	Vargas
Clarke (NY)	Hill (AR)	Neguse				Neal	Norcross	Veasey
Clay	Holding	Newhouse				Higgins (NY)	O'Halleran	Velázquez
Cleaver	Hollingsworth	Norcross				Hill (AR)	Ocasio-Cortez	Visclosky
Cline	Horn, Kendra S.	Nunes				Hollingsworth	Omar	Wagner
Cloud	Horsford	O'Halleran				Horsford	Pallone	Walden
Cohen	Houlihan	Ocasio-Cortez				Houlahan	Pascarell	Waltz
Cole	Hoyer	Olson				Hoyer	Payne	Wasserman
Comer	Hudson	Omar				Huffman	Perlmutter	Schultz
Conaway	Huffman	Pallone				Jackson Lee	Pingree	Waters
Connolly	Huizenga	Palmer				Jeffries	Pocan	Watson Coleman
Cook	Hurd (TX)	Panetta				Johnson (GA)	Posey	Webster (FL)
Cooper	Jackson Lee	Pappas				Johnson (SD)	Pressley	Welch
Correa	Jeffries	Pascarell				Johnson (TX)	Price (NC)	Westerman
Costa	Johnson (GA)	Payne				Katko	Quigley	Wild
Courtney	Johnson (LA)	Pence				Keller	Raskin	Wilson (FL)
Cox (CA)	Johnson (OH)	Perlmutter				Kelly (IL)	Richmond	Wilson (SC)
Craig	Johnson (SD)	Perry				Kelly (PA)	Rodgers (WA)	Yarmuth
Crawford	Johnson (TX)	Peters				Kennedy	Ruiz	
Crenshaw	Jordan	Peterson				Khanna		
Crist	Joyce (OH)	Phillips				Kildee		
Crow	Joyce (PA)	Pingree						
Cuellar	Katko	Pocan						
Cunningham	Keating	Porter				Abraham	Cooper	Harder (CA)
Curtis	Keller	Posey				Aderholt	Correa	Hartzler
Davids (KS)	Kelly (IL)	Pressley				Aguilar	Craig	Hern, Kevin
Davidson (OH)	Kelly (MS)	Price (NC)				Allred	Crawford	Hice (GA)
Davis (CA)	Kelly (PA)	Quigley				Amash	Crenshaw	Higgins (LA)
Davis, Danny K.	Kennedy	Raskin				Axne	Crow	Himes
Davis, Rodney	Khanna	Ratcliffe				Babin	Cuellar	Holding
Dean	Kildee	Reed				Baird	Cunningham	Horn, Kendra S.
DeFazio	Kilmer	Reschenthaler				Balderson	Curtis	Hudson
DeGette	Kim	Rice (NY)				Barr	Davis, Rodney	Huizenga
DeLauro	Kind	Rice (SC)				Bergman	Diaz-Balart	Hurd (TX)
DelBene	King (NY)	Richmond				Biggs	Duncan	Johnson (LA)
Delgado	Kinzing	Roby				Bishop (NC)	Dunn	Johnson (OH)
Demings	Kirkpatrick	Rodgers (WA)				Bishop (UT)	Emmer	Jordan
DeSaulnier	Krishnamoorthi	Roe, David P.				Brady	Estes	Joyce (OH)
DesJarlais	Kuster (NH)	Rogers (AL)				Brindisi	Ferguson	Joyce (PA)
Deutch	Kustoff (TN)	Rogers (KY)				Brooks (AL)	Finkenauer	Keating
Diaz-Balart	LaHood	Rose (NY)				Brooks (IN)	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (MS)
Dingell	LaMalfa	Rose, John W.				Buchanan	Fleischmann	Kilmer
Doggett	Lamb	Rouda				Buck	Flores	Kim
Doyle, Michael	Lamborn	Rouzer				Budd	Fox (NC)	Kind
F.	Langevin	Roybal-Allard				Burchett	Fulcher	King (NY)
Duncan	Larsen (WA)	Ruiz				Burgess	Gallagher	Kustoff (TN)
Dunn	Larson (CT)	Ruppersberger				Byrne	Gianforte	LaHood
Emmer	Latta	Rush				Calvert	Gibbs	LaMalfa
Engel	Lawrence	Rutherford				Carson (IN)	Golden	Lamborn
Escobar	Lawson (FL)	Ryan				Carter (GA)	Gonzalez (TX)	Latta
Eshoo	Lee (CA)	Sánchez				Carter (TX)	Gooden	Lee (NV)
Espallat	Lee (NV)	Sarbanes				Chabot	Gottheimer	Long
Estes	Lesko	Scalise				Cheney	Graves (LA)	Loudermilk
Evans	Levin (CA)	Scanlon				Cisneros	Graves (MO)	Lucas
Ferguson	Levin (MI)	Schakowsky				Cline	Green (TN)	Maloney, Sean
Finkenauer	Lipinski	Schiff				Cloud	Griffith	Marchant
Fitzpatrick	Loeb sack	Schneider				Cole	Grothman	Marshall
Fleischmann	Lofgren	Schrader				Cole	Guest	Massie
Fletcher	Long	Schrier				Conaway	Guthrie	Mast
						Connolly	Hagedorn	Matsui

## NAYS—13

Biggs  
Brooks (AL)  
Buck  
Gohmert  
Griffith

## NOT VOTING—21

Brownley (CA)  
Clyburn  
Collins (GA)  
Fortenberry  
Fudge  
Gaetz  
Gosar

□ 1558

Messrs. BIGGS and YOHOO changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. STEVENS, Mr. OLSON, and Ms. HOULAHAN changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUIGLEY). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 212, nays 185, answered “present” 2, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 94]

## YEAS—212

Adams  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Bacon  
Banks  
Barragán  
Bass  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)

Casten (IL)  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Cohen  
Comer  
Cook  
Costa

## NAYS—185

Cooper  
Correa  
Craig  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Cunningham  
Curtis  
Davis, Rodney  
Diaz-Balart  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ferguson  
Finkenauer  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Flores  
Fox (NC)  
Fulcher  
Gallagher  
Gianforte  
Gibbs  
Golden  
Gonzalez (TX)  
Gooden  
Gottheimer  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hagedorn

Harder (CA)  
Hartzler  
Hern, Kevin  
Hice (GA)  
Higgins (LA)  
Himes  
Holding  
Horn, Kendra S.  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Hurd (TX)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Keating  
Kelly (MS)  
Kilmer  
Kim  
Kind  
King (NY)  
Kustoff (TN)  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Latta  
Lee (NV)  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Maloney, Sean  
Marchant  
Marshall  
Massie  
Mast  
Matsui