

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

Messrs. BIGGS and YOHO 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

Abraham	Cooper	Harder (CA)
Aderholt	Correa	Hartzler
Aguilar	Craig	Hern, Kevin
Allen	Crawford	Hice (GA)
Allred	Crenshaw	Higgins (LA)
Amash	Crow	Himes
Axne	Cuellar	Holding
Babin	Cunningham	Horn, Kendra S.
Baird	Curtis	Hudson
Balderson	Davis, Rodney	Huizenga
Barr	Diaz-Balart	Hurd (TX)
Bergman	Duncan	Johnson (LA)
Biggs	Dunn	Johnson (OH)
Bishop (NC)	Emmer	Jordan
Bishop (UT)	Estes	Joyce (OH)
Brady	Ferguson	Joyce (PA)
Brindisi	Finkenauer	Keating
Brooks (AL)	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (MS)
Brooks (IN)	Fleischmann	Kilmer
Buck	Flores	Kim
Buchanan	Garcia (LA)	Kind
Buck	Fox (NC)	King (NY)
Burgess	Gianforte	Kustoff (TN)
Calvert	Graves (LA)	LaMalfa
Castor (FL)	Graves (MO)	Lamborn
Castro (TX)	Carroll	Latta
Carson (IN)	Cheney	Lee (NV)
Carroll	Cisneros	Maloney, Sean
Chavez	Clay	Lucas
Chu, Judy	Clarke (NY)	Long
Carter (GA)	Carter (TX)	Loudermilk
Cicilline	Chabot	Lucas
Cohen	Cheney	Maloney, Sean
Cloud	Cleaver	Griffith
Comer	Cohen	Marchant
Cloud	Cloud	Marshall
Conaway	Comer	Massie
Connolly	Conaway	Mast
Craig	Guthrie	Matsui