

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I just want to reiterate again, facts are stubborn things. The VA is part of the executive branch. We have a higher demand. We know the PACT Act exists. Let's have the President ask for a commensurate level of money before going to Congress. The PBR, President's budget request, should reflect this higher demand.

This is one of the issues with root cause. That is what we are asking for, not just giving the money to the VA, but getting to the root cause.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), the chairman of the Veterans Affairs' Committee.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 9468, offered by my friend and fellow veteran—let me say that again, friend and fellow veteran—because when our side over here is talking, we are talking as veterans who understand the issues. Representative MIKE GARCIA of California is carrying this bill. I thank him for his service. I am a veteran.

Today, we are carrying out our responsibility to protect our veterans and taxpayers. This bill would appropriate \$2.88 billion to make sure that veterans' disability compensation and education payments will continue without delay.

We also expect the Department of Veterans Affairs to handle the taxpayers' money responsibly. That is why the bill would also force VA to improve their budget and provide more information on how they handle the benefits funding because, Mr. Speaker, the Biden-Harris administration should never have put VA in this position in the first place. The VA shortfall is yet another prime example of critical mismanagement by the current administration.

This bill would also direct the inspector general to do a top-to-bottom audit of the reasons for the healthcare and benefits shortfall. I have been getting half answers from executives at VA for 2 months about this shortfall.

The Biden-Harris administration has asked Congress to hand over another \$12 billion right now based on eight pages of old numbers that don't add up. That is not what our constituents sent us here to do. They expect me, as the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and as a Member of Congress, to ask very important questions and get to the bottom of the reality of what is happening, and that is what I intend to do.

This legislation is a step in the right direction, and it upholds the House Republicans' commitment to always care for men and women who have served our military. I am proud to support it. Whenever the statement is made about the fact that Republicans aren't doing that, yes, we are, but we are doing it with the responsibility of exactly what

we are supposed to be doing, and that is giving oversight. Somehow the other side of the aisle forgets that we have to do that, and for some reason the administration doesn't want to answer the questions we are asking.

Mr. Speaker, our responsibility is to look over the budget and make sure it is being spent wisely. Remember, the VA was not created for the VA; it was created for the veterans, and that is what this language does.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any additional speakers. I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, do you know what is a stubborn thing? Math. Math is a stubborn thing. As I have mentioned earlier, this bill falls short of supporting the full funding needs for the VA. It is very simple.

The VA has told us that by March of 2025, which is only a few months away, they will need an additional \$12 billion for veterans' healthcare. There is nothing mysterious about this.

I am not that good at math, but the VA has reported that they are delivering more appointments to veterans than ever before, and that has something directly to do with why they need the additional resources. In fact, there have been 91 million appointments thus far in 2024, outpacing last year's total. The VA expects to see 127 million appointments by the end of this month.

The VA has also reported that costs for drugs and prosthetic devices are higher due to market pressures. Additionally, community care costs will need to grow by 16.5 percent next year in order to deliver anticipated community care needs for veterans.

Math is a difficult thing, apparently, for our friends on the other side of the aisle. Despite these warnings, my colleagues across the aisle have decided to ignore the VA, to obfuscate, to create smoke and mirrors.

Mr. Speaker, I spent the morning with over 100 of my veterans who served in World War II, the Korean conflict, and the Vietnam war, and I promised them I was coming back here to make sure that we addressed this \$3 billion shortfall and that we would ensure that we fully implemented the PACT Act and ensured that veterans who were exposed to toxic substances would have their care covered. The PACT Act presumes, Mr. Speaker, that that exposure is what caused their illnesses, caused the disease that so many had to struggle with getting the ability to have that healthcare paid for until the PACT Act became law.

Despite these warnings, my colleagues across the aisle have decided to ignore the VA. In their continuing resolution, which would end on March 28, and which we expect to vote on tomorrow, they purposefully excluded any additional funding for veterans.

I will remind you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, that when we committed that we would make sure that

the PACT Act funds were guaranteed, that we had guaranteed funding so that we wouldn't leave the funding for veterans' healthcare to the whims of the appropriations process, as we do every year, our friends on the other side of the aisle decided to put a bill together that denied that guaranteed funding.

They denied that guaranteed funding repeatedly until they were finally shamed into living up to our commitment to our veterans. This funding is needed to hire more medical professionals, deal with the growing cost of community care, relieve cost growth issues for pharmacy and prosthetics. We have to make sure that we are there for them.

The bottom line is that this bill that is here before us is a good first step in addressing the funding pressures the VA is experiencing due to the administration's successful implementation of the PACT Act, but it fails to address the additional funding needs in healthcare.

I encourage my colleagues across the aisle to include the funding in a CR that is necessary for the VA to ensure that our veterans receive the quality care that we promised them, that the law requires, and that they deserve.

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

□ 1845

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Just a reminder, there is \$140 billion cash on hand by the VA in discretionary dollars for FY 2025. This bill works to close the gap for FY 2024 to the tune of \$2.88 billion.

This is an opportunity for every single Member of Congress to show their support for our veterans across the Nation, 7 million of them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for H.R. 9468, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FULCHER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MIKE GARCIA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9468.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 8314; and
S. 2861.

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.

NO FOREIGN ELECTION
INTERFERENCE ACT

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. 8314) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose penalties with respect to contributions to political committees from certain tax exempt organizations that receive contributions from foreign nationals, 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 Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 181, answered “present” 1, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 418]

YEAS—218

Aderholt	Fitzgerald	Luttrell
Alford	Fitzpatrick	Mace
Allen	Fleischmann	Malliotakis
Allred	Flood	Maloy
Amodei	Fong	Mann
Arrington	Fox	Massie
Babin	Franklin, Scott	Mast
Bacon	Fry	McCaul
Balderson	Fulcher	McClain
Banks	Gaetz	McClintock
Barr	Garbarino	McCormick
Bean (FL)	Garcia, Mike	McHenry
Bentz	Jimenez	Meuser
Bergman	Golden (ME)	Miller (IL)
Bice	Gonzales, Tony	Miller (OH)
Biggs	Gonzalez, V.	Miller (WV)
Bilirakis	Good (VA)	Miller-Meeks
Bishop (NC)	Gooden (TX)	Mills
Boebert	Gosar	Molinaro
Bost	Graves (LA)	Moolenaar
Brecheen	Graves (MO)	Mooney
Buchanan	Green (TN)	Moore (AL)
Bucshon	Greene (GA)	Moore (UT)
Burchett	Griffith	Moran
Burgess	Grothman	Murphy
Burlison	Guest	Nehls
Calvert	Guthrie	Newhouse
Cammack	Hageman	Norman
Caraveo	Harris	Nunn (IA)
Carey	Harshbarger	Ogles
Carl	Hern	Owens
Carter (GA)	Higgins (LA)	Palmer
Carter (TX)	Hill	Pappas
Chavez-DeRemer	Hinson	Perez
Ciscomani	Houchin	Perry
Cline	Hudson	Pfleger
Cloud	Huizenga	Posey
Clyde	Hunt	Reschenthaler
Cole	Issa	Rodgers (WA)
Comer	Jackson (TX)	Rogers (AL)
Costa	James	Rogers (KY)
Craig	Johnson (SD)	Rose
Crane	Jordan	Rosendale
Crawford	Joyce (OH)	Rouzer
Crenshaw	Joyce (PA)	Roy
Cuellar	Kean (NJ)	Rulli
D'Esposito	Kelly (MS)	Rutherford
Davidson	Kelly (PA)	Ryan
Davis (NC)	Kiggans (VA)	Scalise
De La Cruz	Kiley	Schrier
DesJarlais	Kim (CA)	Schweikert
Diaz-Balart	Kustoff	Scott, Austin
Donalds	LaHood	Self
Duarte	LaLota	Sessions
Duncan	Landsman	Simpson
Edwards	Langworthy	Slotkin
Ellzey	Latta	Smith (MO)
Emmer	LaTurner	Smith (NE)
Estes	Lawler	Smith (NJ)
Ezell	Lee (FL)	Smucker
Fallon	Lesko	Sorensen
Feenstra	Letlow	Stauber
Ferguson	Lopez	Steel
Finstad	Loudermilk	Stefanik
Fischbach	Lucas	Steil

Steube
Strong
Tennet
Thompson (PA)
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew

Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman

Wild
Williams (NY)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—181

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragan
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Cabrera
Cardenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Connolly
Correa
Courtney
Crockett
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DeBene
Deluzio
Buchanan
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Costa
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
D'Esposito
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach

Gomez
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlihan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez

Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pelosi
Peltola
Peters
Petterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Salinas
Sanchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velazquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

BILLIE JEAN KING CONGRES-
SIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

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 (S. 2861) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Billie Jean King, an American icon, in recognition of a remarkable life devoted to championing equal rights for all, in sports and in society, 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 gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 308, nays 87, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 419]

YEAS—308

Adams	Connolly	Harder (CA)
Aderholt	Correa	Hayes
Aguilar	Costa	Hill
Alford	Courtney	Himes
Allen	Craig	Hinson
Allred	Crenshaw	Horsford
Amo	Crockett	Houchin
Amodei	Crow	Houlihan
Auchincloss	Cuellar	Hoyer
Bacon	D'Esposito	Hoyle (OR)
Balint	Davids (KS)	Huffman
Barr	Davis (IL)	Issa
Barragan	Davis (NC)	Ivey
Bean (FL)	De La Cruz	Jackson (IL)
Beatty	Dean (PA)	Jacobs
Bentz	DeGette	James
Bera	DeLauro	Jayapal
Bergman	DelBene	Jeffries
Beyer	Deluzio	Johnson (GA)
Bice	DeSaulnier	Johnson (SD)
Bilirakis	DesJarlais	Joyce (OH)
Bishop (GA)	Diaz-Balart	Kamlager-Dove
Blunt Rochester	Doggett	Kaptur
Bonamici	Duarte	Kean (NJ)
Bowman	Emmer	Keating
Boyle (PA)	Escobar	Kelly (IL)
Brown	Eshoo	Kelly (PA)
Brownley	Feenstra	Kennedy
Bucshon	Ferguson	Khanna
Budzinski	Fitzpatrick	Kiggans (VA)
Burgess	Fleischmann	Kildee
Calvert	Fletcher	Kilmer
Caraveo	Flood	Kim (CA)
Carbajal	Fong	Kim (NJ)
Cardenas	Foster	Kuster
Carey	Foushee	Krishnamoorthi
Carl	Fox	Kyle
Carson	Frankel, Lois	LaHood
Carter (GA)	Frost	LaLota
Carter (LA)	Garamendi	Landsman
Cartwright	Garbarino	Langworthy
Casar	Garcia (IL)	Larsen (WA)
Case	Garcia (TX)	Larson (CT)
Casten	Garcia, Mike	LaTurner
Castor (FL)	Garcia, Robert	Lawler
Castro (TX)	Jimenez	Lee (CA)
Chavez-DeRemer	Golden (ME)	Lee (FL)
Cherfilus-	Goldman (NY)	Lee (NV)
McCormick	Gomez	Lee (PA)
Chu	Gonzales, Tony	Leger Fernandez
Ciscomani	Gonzalez, V.	Letlow
Clark (MA)	Gottheimer	Levin
Clarke (NY)	Graves (LA)	Lofgren
Cleaver	Graves (MO)	Lopez
Clyburn	Green, Al (TX)	Loudermilk
Cohen	Griffith	Lynch
Cole	Guest	Mace
Comer	Guthrie	Magaziner

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Cohen

NOT VOTING—30

Armstrong
Baird
Blumenauer
Bush
Collins
Curtis
Dingell
Dunn (FL)
Evans
Gallego
Granger
Grijalva
Jackson (NC)
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lieu
Luetkemeyer
Luna
McGarvey
Obernolte
Pence
Salazar
Schiff
Spartz
Swalwell
Thompson (MS)
Tiffany
Van Orden
Wexton
Williams (TX)

□ 1905

Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Messrs. PHILIPS, RUPPERSBERGER, LYNCH, CLYBURN, and HOYER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. WILD, SLOTKIN, and Mr. GARBARINO changed their votes from “nay” to “yea.”