

This bill would do just that, and it would save potentially thousands of dollars for disabled veterans. I thank the DAV and VFW for their tireless work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 522, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 522, the Deliver for Veterans Act, as amended.

This bill would make it easier for disabled veterans to obtain the adaptive automobiles they are entitled to through their service-connected disability. If signed into law, this bill would save veterans tens of thousands of dollars on shipping costs of vehicles.

Last Congress, we passed the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act, a bill authored by Ranking Member MIKE LEVIN and Representative LIZZIE FLETCHER, which expanded the adaptive auto benefit for veterans, allowing them to get a new vehicle if 10 years have passed since using the benefit.

This bill from Representative MOYLAN builds upon that work by simplifying the process for veterans who require their adaptive vehicle to be shipped. This includes veterans who live in areas such as Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I will talk about a significant piece of legislation that would benefit many of our Nation's heroes residing in very remote locations, H.R. 522, the Deliver for Veterans Act.

This bill is a significant step forward in ensuring our veterans receive the care, support, and service they not only deserve but that is also legally available. However, obtaining some of these benefits can be challenging because of location.

Currently, a program with the Department of Veterans Affairs allows disabled veterans to receive about \$25,000 to purchase an adaptive vehicle. However, veterans residing in remote areas, such as Guam, Hawaii, Alaska, or other jurisdictions throughout the Nation, would have to pay the rates to ship the vehicle to their homes. It would easily cost between \$3,000 to \$4,000 for a vehicle to be shipped to Guam or Hawaii. I can't imagine the shipping costs if it came from the West Coast.

H.R. 522 addresses this problem by including shipping costs as part of the program. This ensures that a veteran with a disability can obtain an adaptive vehicle from this program and have it delivered to their home.

The legislation would assist many veterans residing in my district of

Guam, which has among the Nation's highest number of veterans per capita. H.R. 522 would also benefit veterans residing in other territories, such as the Northern Marianas and American Samoa. Moreover, it would support those residing in noncontiguous States, such as Hawaii and Alaska, and greatly help veterans living in rural communities throughout the Nation.

This legislation needs to be passed. This bill is another step toward closing many gaps of inadequate care for veterans living in remote areas.

I appreciate my colleagues' support in continuing to deliver our promise to those who served. Veterans have sacrificed so much for our freedoms. It is our duty and moral obligation to ensure they receive the highest standard of care and support when they return home.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all the Members to support H.R. 522 and work together to give back to our veterans who have already given so much to our country.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 522, the Deliver for Veterans Act, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, 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. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 522, 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.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL SELECTED RESERVES TUITION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2024

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7323) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disapprove courses of education offered by a public institution of higher learning that does not charge the in-State tuition rate to a veteran using certain educational assistance under title 10 of such Code, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7323

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 "Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DISAPPROVAL OF COURSES OFFERED BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING THAT DO NOT CHARGE VETERANS IN-STATE TUITION RATE FOR PURPOSES OF SELECTED RESERVE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 3679 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, or chapter 1606 of title 10,” after “chapter 30, 31, 33, or 35 of this title”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) An individual who is entitled to assistance under section 16131 of title 10.”; and

(3) in paragraph (6), by inserting “, or chapter 1606 of title 10” before the period at the end.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “, or chapter 1606 of title 10,” after “chapter 31, 33, or 35 of this title”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “chapter 31 33, or 35 of this title” and inserting “chapter 31, 33, or 35 of this title, or chapter 1606 of title 10”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “chapter 31 33, or 35 of this title” and inserting “chapter 31, 33, or 35 of this title, or chapter 1606 of title 10”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to an academic period that begins on or after August 1, 2025.

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PAYABLE FOR FLIGHT TRAINING UNDER POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3313 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(3)(C), by striking “In the case” and inserting “Subject to the limitation under subsection (m), in the case”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(m) LIMITATION ON USE OF ENTITLEMENT FOR FLIGHT TRAINING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter and subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the maximum amount payable under this chapter to an individual, over the lifetime of the individual, for tuition and fees for the pursuit of a program of flight training offered by a public institution of higher learning that leads to a degree, certificate, or other non-college degree, regardless of how many such programs the individual pursues, is—

“(A) in the case of an individual who first pursues such a program during the academic year beginning on August 1, 2025, \$115,749; or

“(B) in the case of an individual who first pursues such a program during an academic year beginning on August 1 of any subsequent year, the amount in effect under this subsection for the previous academic year beginning on August 1, as increased by the percentage increase equal to the most recent percentage increase determined under section 3015(h) of this title.

“(2) PURSUIT ON LESS THAN A FULL-TIME BASIS.—In the case of an individual who is entitled to educational assistance under this chapter by reason of any of paragraph (3) through (7) of section 3311(b) of this title, the maximum amount payable under paragraph (1) is—

“(A) the amount in effect under paragraph (1), multiplied by

“(B) the same percentage applicable to the monthly amounts payable to the individual

under paragraphs (2) through (6) of subsection (c).

“(3) PRIOR USE OF ENTITLEMENT.—In the case of an individual who is entitled to educational assistance under this chapter and who uses any of such entitlement prior to the pursuit of a program of flight training offered by a public institution of higher learning that leads to a degree, certificate, or other non-college degree, the maximum amount of payable to the individual under this subsection is—

“(A) the maximum total amount in effect under paragraph (1), minus

“(B) the amount of entitlement to educational assistance the individual used before enrolling in such program.”

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2025, and shall apply with respect to an individual who first pursues a program of flight training on or after August 1, 2025.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

□ 1400

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 7323, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7323 offered by my friend and fellow veteran, our Economic Opportunity Subcommittee chairman, Representative VAN ORDEN.

This bill would reduce tuition costs for Montgomery GI Bill selected reservists by making them eligible for the same in-State tuition waiver that the other GI Bill recipients receive.

Representative VAN ORDEN's bill would also reduce the cost for veterans seeking to become pilots. Veterans attending flight training schools would not be charged unlimited fees but instead would pay fees equal to those charged by a 4-year private college or university.

Student veterans would also be able to complete their flight training faster because they would be able to attend flight training year-round under this bill.

I fully support this bill that would ensure VA can protect the integrity of the GI Bill and provide veterans with the best economic and educational opportunities out there.

I thank the VFW, the ROA, and the DAV for supporting this bill, and I also thank my friend and colleague from New Jersey, Representative KEAN, for his work on the flight school enhancements that are included in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 7323, as amended. I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2024.

Hon. MIKE BOST,

Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BOST: I write concerning H.R. 7323, a bill sponsored by Representative

Van Orden of Wisconsin. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H.R. 7323 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services, I agree to forego any further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Committee on Armed Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 7323 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction.

Finally, I ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included by House Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL D. ROGERS,

Chairman, House Committee on Armed
Services.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2024.

Hon. MIKE ROGERS,

Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 7323, the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2024. I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services. I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services over the subject matters contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, I would support your request to have the Committee on Armed Services appropriately consulted on any issues in this bill or similar legislation that fall under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services.

I will place copies of this exchange in the committee report on H.R. 7323 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

MIKE BOST,

Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 7323, the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2024.

This bill mandates that the Department of Veterans Affairs deny courses that do not charge in-State tuition rates to veterans using certain educational assistance under Title X.

Now, VA already has the authority to disapprove courses at higher education institutions that do not offer in-State tuition rates for other GI Bill beneficiaries.

Mandating in-State tuition rates is a good policy. It ensures only schools who prioritize quality education at a fair price participate in the programs, it preserves GI Bill benefits for student veterans, and it makes the entire GI Bill program more solvent and sustainable so that the GI Bill stays available for veterans for generations to come.

It is also crucial to ensure that selected reservists receive the same benefits as their Active-Duty counterparts

by ensuring that in-State tuition is granted, regardless of their residency.

This bill will expand educational opportunities by providing them with more affordable education options. Their dedication to serving our country deserves nothing less.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN).

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to speak today on behalf of my legislation, H.R. 7323, the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act.

The bill holds special meaning to me because the issue was brought to my attention by one of my constituents, a fellow veteran, Mr. Greg Tremelling, during a Veterans Day listening session.

His voice, along with many other reservists and veterans, made clear that we have to change our policies. This is how representative government should be, us listening to our constituents and acting on their behalf.

I am proud to represent the brave men and women who serve at Fort McCoy and Volk Field who make sacrifices for us every day and for this Nation.

We have to remember that three out of the last five servicemembers that were killed defending our country were reservists, the other two, of course, being my fellow Navy SEALs who were lost at sea.

These servicemembers gave everything to defend our country, a solemn reminder that reservists face the same risks and make the same sacrifices as their Active-Duty counterparts, and their service must never be overlooked.

By passing this bill, we are going to take steps to ensure parity between reservists and Active-Duty servicemembers.

By addressing this key disparity in educational benefits, my legislation will provide reservists with greater access to affordable education.

I remind everybody that the enemy doesn't care if you are a reservist or a National Guardsman or an Active-Duty servicemember. They are simply aiming at the American flag that you have on your shoulder.

It is time for a change. I thank Mr. Tremelling personally for bringing this to my attention. Again, I thank Chairman BOST and Ranking Member TAKANO for supporting this, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I mention that I support this bill because it is a step forward, but we do have a more comprehensive solution for reservists.

It is called the GI Parity Bill. It would provide parity to our reservists and our guardsmen to make sure that the time they put in for training counts for their qualification for GI Bill benefits.

I am disappointed that that bill has not been brought to the floor because I think that is the real solution to making sure that our guardsmen and our reservists are treated fairly.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KEAN).

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7323, the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2024, introduced by my friend, Congressman VAN ORDEN from Wisconsin.

This legislation includes my bill, H.R. 7613, the Veterans Flight Training Responsibility Act of 2024. This act would allow up to \$115,000 in benefits for veterans to use at public institutions of higher learning for flight school.

This number is on par with the cap for 4-year private institutions so that veterans in flight schools are not disadvantaged and it would allow veterans to go to school year-round.

Additionally, this legislation would protect American taxpayers from schools charging hundreds of thousands of dollars for a degree that should not cost that much.

Finally, by getting veterans through school faster and protecting the VA from flight school GI Bill fraud, this legislation would help the economy and America's deficit, while being a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

This bill would allow student veterans who wish to train during the summer months to do so. This allows those students to take advantage of better weather conditions for flight training.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this vital piece of legislation to help our veterans obtain degrees quicker and advance in their chosen profession.

Finally, I thank Chairman BOST for advancing this legislation and my friend, Congressman VAN ORDEN, for sponsoring the underlying bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 7323, the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2024, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation, 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. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7323, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disapprove courses of education offered by a public institution of higher learning that does not charge the in-State tui-

tion rate to a veteran using certain educational assistance under title 10 of such Code, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERAN IMPROVEMENT COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE ACT OF 2023

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 656) to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the rules for approval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of commercial driver education programs for purposes of veterans educational assistance, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 656

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 "Veteran Improvement Commercial Driver License Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF RULES FOR APPROVAL OF COMMERCIAL DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR PURPOSES OF VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3680A(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively;

(2) in the matter before subparagraph (A), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by inserting "(1)" before "The Secretary";

(3) in paragraph (1)(B), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by inserting "except as provided in paragraph (2)," before "the course"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph (2):

"(2)(A) Subject to this paragraph, a commercial driver education program is exempt from paragraph (1)(B) for a branch of an educational institution if the commercial driver education program offered at the branch by the educational institution—

"(i) is appropriately licensed; and

"(ii) uses the same curriculum as a commercial driver education program offered by the educational institution at another location that is approved for purposes of this chapter by a State approving agency or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency.

"(B)(i) In order for a commercial driver education program of an educational institution offered at a branch described in paragraph (1)(B) to be exempt under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the educational institution shall submit to the Secretary each year that paragraph (1)(B) would otherwise apply a report that demonstrates that the curriculum at the new branch is the same as the curriculum at the primary location.

"(ii) Reporting under clause (i) shall be submitted in accordance with such requirements as the Secretary shall establish in consultation with the State approving agencies.

"(C)(i) The Secretary may withhold an exemption under subparagraph (A) for any educational institution or branch of an educational institution as the Secretary considers appropriate.

"(ii) In making any determination under clause (i), the Secretary may consult with

the Secretary of Transportation on the performance of a provider of a commercial driver program, including the status of the provider within the Training Provider Registry of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration when appropriate."

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish requirements under section 3680A(e)(2)(B)(ii) of such title, as added by subsection (a).

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to commercial driver education programs on and after the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Secretary establishes the requirements under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 656.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 656 offered by my colleague, Senator FISCHER from Nebraska. This would cut through the red tape for the approval process for commercial driving schools across the country.

House Republicans' priority is to expand the employment opportunities for veterans after they leave the military.

As a former truck driver and a former manager of our family's trucking business, which I was raised in, I know how important it is to have qualified drivers.

The American Trucking Institute said they need 60,000 more drivers to keep the economy moving. This bill allows veterans to help meet that demand.

We may need to make changes to the law to address some concerns in the future. However, it is essential that we advance the bill to create more job opportunities for our veterans. I look forward to continuing to improve CDL programs, and I urge my colleagues to support S. 656.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on S. 656, the Veteran Improvement Commercial Driver License Act of 2023. This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to create an expedited approval process for commercial driver education programs when the program is an extension of an existing educational institution.

New programs must meet the same curriculum as previously approved by