

home are mountains of daunting paperwork. Veterans and their families have the best chance of accessing their earned VA benefits and should not be subjected to a VA claims process that is more difficult and stressful than necessary.

Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District is home to 40,000 veterans. I am proud to spearhead this legislation for each and every one of them and their families.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1286 because we owe our veterans a system that works efficiently and effectively on their behalf.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 1286, Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims 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. 1286, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. BOST. 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.

VA HOME LOAN PROGRAM REFORM ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1815) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain actions in the case of a default on a home loan guaranteed by the Secretary, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1815

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 "VA Home Loan Program Reform Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS IN THE CASE OF A DEFAULT ON A HOME LOAN GUARANTEED BY THE SECRETARY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3732 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "obligation" each place it appears and inserting "loan";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

"(A) The Secretary may, under terms and conditions determined by the Secretary—

"(i) pay the holder of a loan guaranteed under this chapter an amount necessary to avoid the foreclosure of such loan;

"(ii) require the holder of the loan and the veteran obligated on the loan to execute all documents necessary to ensure the Secretary obtains a secured interest in the property covered by the loan; and

"(iii) require the holder of the loan to take any actions necessary to carry out this paragraph, including preparing, executing, transmitting, receiving, and recording documents, and requiring the holder of the loan to place the loan in forbearance.";

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "obligation" each place it appears and inserting "housing loan"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

"(C)(i) Any decision by the Secretary under this paragraph is final and is not subject to judicial review.

"(ii) For purposes of section 511 of this title, any decision under this paragraph shall not be treated as a decision under a law that affects the provision of benefits.

"(D)(i) The Secretary may establish standards for processing payments under this paragraph based on a certification by a holder of a loan guaranteed under this chapter that the holder has complied with all applicable requirements established by the Secretary.

"(ii) The Secretary shall carry out, on a random-sampling basis, post-payment audits to ensure compliance with all requirements described in clause (i)."; and

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking "obligation" and inserting "loan";

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "subsection—" and inserting "subsection:"; and

(B) in paragraph (10)(B)(i), by striking "forebearance" each place it appears and inserting "forbearance"; and

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

"(d) The Secretary shall prescribe loss mitigation procedures, including a mandatory sequence in which the holder of a loan guaranteed under this chapter shall offer loss mitigation options (including an option to enter into a partial claim agreement under the VA Home Loan Program Reform Act) to a veteran, to help prevent the foreclosure of such loan. The Secretary may not purchase an entire such loan until the veteran has completed such sequence."

(b) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POWERS OF SECRETARY.—Section 3720 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "Notwithstanding" and inserting "Except as provided in subsection (h), notwithstanding";

(2) by redesignating subsections (f) through (h) as subsections (e) through (g), respectively; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection (h):

"(h) The Secretary may not take any action under paragraph (2), (3), (4), or (5) of subsection (a) with respect to a loan guaranteed under this chapter before the completion of the sequence of mitigation options offered to the veteran to whom the loan is made under section 3732(d) of this title."

SEC. 3. PARTIAL CLAIM PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 3737. Partial Claim Program

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall carry out a program, to be known as the 'Partial Claim Program', under which the Secretary may make a partial claim, described in subsection (b), with respect to a loan—

"(1) guaranteed under this chapter;

"(2) regarding the primary residence of the borrower; and

"(3) that the Secretary determines is in default or at imminent risk of default.

"(b) PARTIAL CLAIM DESCRIBED.—A partial claim described in this subsection, with respect to a loan described in subsection (a), is the purchase by the Secretary of a portion of indebtedness under the loan, through a transaction under which the Secretary—

"(1) pays to the holder of the loan the amount of indebtedness, subject to subsection (c), that the Secretary determines necessary to help prevent or resolve a default; and

"(2) receives a secured interest in the property that serves as collateral for the guaranteed loan, which is subordinate to the first lien guaranteed loan for such property.

"(c) ADMINISTRATION OF PARTIAL CLAIM.—(1)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the amount of a partial claim under this section with respect to a loan guaranteed described in subsection (a) may not exceed 25 percent of the unpaid principal balance of the loan on the date on which the partial claim is made.

"(B) In the case of an individual who failed to make a payment on a loan guaranteed under this chapter during the period beginning on March 1, 2020 and ending on May 1, 2025, the amount of a partial claim under this section may not exceed 30 percent of the unpaid principal balance of the guaranteed loan as of the date that the initial partial claim is made.

"(2)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary may make only one partial claim per loan.

"(B) The Secretary may make an additional partial claim on a loan guaranteed under this chapter in the case of an individual who failed to make a payment on such loan during—

"(i) a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170); or

"(ii) the period of 120 days following such a major disaster.

"(3) An amount paid to the holder of a loan as a partial claim—

"(A) shall not count against the amount of a loan that may otherwise be guaranteed under this chapter; and

"(B) may not be applied to the portion of the loan that is guaranteed under this chapter.

"(4) A holder of a loan guaranteed under such chapter for which the Secretary makes a partial claim under this section shall apply the amount paid by the Secretary for the partial claim first to arrearages, if any, on the guaranteed loan. Such arrearages may include any additional costs (such as taxes, insurance premiums, or homeowner's dues) the Secretary determines necessary to prevent or resolve a default.

"(5) The Secretary may enter into a contract with an appropriate entity for the service of a partial claim made by the Secretary under this section. Any such contract shall provide that such entity shall provide quarterly statements to the holder of the loan for which the Secretary makes the partial claim.

"(d) REQUIREMENTS OF LOAN HOLDER.—(1) The Secretary may require the holder of a loan for which the Secretary makes a partial claim under this section to take any actions necessary to establish the partial claim, including preparing, executing, transmitting, receiving, and recording loan documents.

"(2) The Secretary shall compensate the holder of such a loan appropriately, as determined by the Secretary, for the services required of such holder under this subsection.

“(3) The Secretary may exercise the authority of the Secretary under this subsection without regard to any other provision of law not enacted expressly in limitation of this section that would otherwise govern the expenditure of public funds.

“(e) **DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE.**—(1)(A) Notwithstanding section 3703(e) of this title, an individual who defaults on a loan for which the Secretary makes a partial claim made under this section shall be liable to the Secretary for any loss suffered by the Secretary resulting from such default. Such a loss may be recovered in the same manner as any other debt due the United States.

“(B) In the event of default by an individual on a loan for which the Secretary makes a partial claim made under this section, the Secretary may reduce the aggregate amount of guaranty or insurance housing loan entitlement available to the individual under this chapter.

“(2) Notwithstanding section 2410(c) of title 28, an action to foreclose a lien held by the United States arising under a partial claim made under this section shall follow foreclosure procedures in accordance with State or local law where the property involved is located.

“(f) **DECISIONS BY THE SECRETARY.**—(1) Any partial claim made under this section shall be made in the sole discretion of the Secretary and on terms and conditions acceptable to the Secretary that are consistent with this section.

“(2) Any decision by the Secretary under this section is final and conclusive and is not subject to judicial review.

“(3) For purposes of section 511 of this title, any decision under this section shall not be treated as a decision under a law that affects the provision of benefits.

“(g) **COMPLIANCE.**—(1) The Secretary may establish standards for processing payments under this section based on a certification by a holder of a loan guaranteed under such chapter that the holder has complied with all applicable requirements established by the Secretary.

“(2) The Secretary shall carry out, on a random-sampling basis, post-payment audits to ensure compliance with all requirements under paragraph (1).

“(h) **GUIDANCE WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN LOANS.**—(1) With respect to a loan described in paragraph (2), the Secretary may—

“(A) before prescribing regulations, issue administrative guidance regarding the making of a partial claim relating to such loan; and

“(B) establish, through such guidance, additional requirements applicable to such a partial claim.

“(2) A loan described in this paragraph is a loan that the Secretary determines is in default on the date of the enactment of this section.

“(i) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary under subsections (a) and (d) of section 3732 of this title.

“(j) **TERMINATION.**—The Secretary may not make a partial claim under this section after the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this section.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3736 the following new item: “3737. Partial Claim Program.”

SEC. 4. STRATEGY OF THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGARDING THE EFFECT OF CERTAIN LITIGATION.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the strategy

of the Secretary to ensure that a veteran who seeks to purchase a home with a loan guaranteed under chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, is not at a disadvantage when attempting to secure representation by a real estate agent or broker. Such strategy may include amendments to section 36.4313 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 5. INCREASE OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

Section 2016 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking “fiscal year 2015 and each subsequent fiscal year” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2015 through 2024”; and

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

“(8) \$344,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026.

“(9) \$257,700,000 for each fiscal year thereafter through fiscal year 2030.”

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 H.R. 1815, 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. 1815, as amended, offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN), my friend and colleague.

For the last year, House Republicans have raised concerns about the Biden administration's creation of a VA Servicing Purchase program, or the VASP program.

Mr. Speaker, this Biden program was estimated to cost over \$15 billion in tax dollars. It also puts the VA home loan program at risk for today and tomorrow's veterans.

It was a bad program, and the Trump administration was right to stop it. However, I recognize that sometimes veterans and their families fall on hard times and veterans need a safety net.

Mr. VAN ORDEN's bill, H.R. 1815, as amended, is a fiscally responsible solution to enhance the VA home loan program and give veterans the assistance they might need if they are in home loan debt.

The bill is the result of over a year of discussions between VSOs, veterans, the lenders, and Members to properly establish a partial claim program for veteran homeowners should they need it.

The bill is the only fiscally responsible solution to a problem that Mr. VAN ORDEN and I have been sounding the alarm on for over a year.

Instead of the VA running rampant and creating a program without Con-

gress' intent, establishing a partial claim program where elected officials have made changes to improve a government program is how the democracy should work.

This bill would also require the VA to implement a strategic plan to ensure that veterans remain competitive in their home loan process.

Finally, this bill includes the proper funding for the grant and per diem provisions we passed in the Dole Act last year to fix the Biden administration's mistake.

Under my leadership, my committee will continue to honor its commitment to all veterans, including ensuring proper funding is provided to the GPD providers working to lift veterans out of homelessness.

I thank everybody who has come together to get this bill to this place.

I give special thanks to the Mortgage Bankers Association, Rocket Mortgage, the National Association of REALTORS, and the National Association of Mortgage Brokers for supporting this legislation and helping us get it to the finish line on behalf of our veterans and their families.

I appreciate my Democrat colleagues for their bipartisan support of this legislation. With their support, I hope we can get a good bill passed to the Senate quickly and then to the President's desk very soon.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1815, 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 in support of H.R. 1815, the VA Home Loan Program Reform Act, as amended.

We are, unfortunately, here to solve a crisis of the Trump administration's own making. Due to the unilateral actions of President Trump and Secretary Collins, over 80,000 veterans, servicemembers, and their families are now facing foreclosures on their homes.

Let's review how we got here. Our Nation faced an unprecedented crisis with COVID-19. That required action from VA to prevent the loss of hundreds of thousands of homes when our economy ground to a halt.

President Biden, with the support of Congress, took action. First, the President used existing authorities to pause foreclosures. Then with the authorities granted by the national disaster declaration, the VA was able to implement a partial claims program, very similar to this very legislation we are considering today, saving tens of thousands of veterans from losing their homes.

□ 1645

Mr. Speaker, Republicans, including Chairman BOST, urged President Biden to end the U.S. national emergency for COVID-19, which occurred on April 11, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, this resulted in VA losing authorities to carry out a partial claims program, again, not unlike the legislation we are considering now.

At that moment, action was still critically needed. Our veterans would have lost their homes. The VA could no longer offer a partial claims program because, of course, the national emergency was ended, so President Biden instituted a second foreclosure moratorium to give VA more time to offer a solution.

Mr. Speaker, President Biden and Secretary Denis McDonough began to work in 2023 and launched the Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase program, or VASP, on May 31, 2024. During that year, most lenders cooperated, and very few veteran foreclosures occurred.

This new program, VASP, used explicit existing authorities granted by Congress to offer veteran homeowners a last resort before losing their homes. However, last month, Secretary Collins, President Trump, and Elon Musk's DOGE abruptly ended the VASP program, giving veterans no notice that a critical lifeline for borrowers was being taken away.

This decision was pushed for and celebrated by Chairman BOST and Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Chairman VAN ORDEN. If the Speaker listens to them, they will argue that the program meant that VA would incur too much risk or that VA was not properly prepared to handle holding the loans of these veterans.

Just so we are all clear, VA already holds the risks for loans in the home loan program. The program is called the Home Loan Guaranty Program. VA is guaranteeing that lenders are made whole if a veteran is foreclosed on. The lenders collect the interest, profit from the loan, and if a foreclosure happens, the lenders are paid first.

Mr. Speaker, I will read from the VA's own website:

"A VA home loan guaranty means that a purchaser obtains a loan through a private lender, such as a bank, credit union, or mortgage company. VA then works with the lender to guarantee the loan. If the homeowner defaults on the loan, VA will pay the debt to the lender."

Second, the claim that VA doesn't know how to manage property or hold loans is just plain wrong. VA has an extensive property management portfolio. VA testified before our committee earlier this year on its ability to hold the loans. VA already has enhanced-use leases on nearly 40 of its campuses, meaning VA is acting as a landlord that is managing property being used by lessees.

Further, President Trump recently announced his intentions to own a massive housing property at the West L.A. campus. I look forward to working with the administration to make this happen, and this absolutely is evidence of VA's ability to manage land and properties.

Mr. Speaker, today, I and Members of Congress continue to field calls from veterans who learned from a press release that they are likely to lose their homes. These are veterans who saw the

Secretary's April 25 notice that the program was ending. These are the very same veterans who tried to apply for the program and who found out that the program had already closed.

Mr. Speaker, the May 1 closing date was deceptive. In reality, these veterans would have had to have submitted their paperwork much earlier in April. This is outrageous and cruel. In the chairman's State of Illinois, over 2,000 borrowers face foreclosure. In the bill sponsor's State of Wisconsin, over 600 borrowers face foreclosure. In my State of California, over 4,000 borrowers face foreclosure. I could go on and on, but these borrowers had options to avoid foreclosure. Yet, these options are now severely limited.

Many of these veterans are now afraid of speaking out against the VA in fear of retribution. They are disabled veterans, Vietnam war-era veterans, Gulf war veterans, and Active-Duty military members. These veterans and these soldiers had our backs. Where is the Trump-Collins VA? It is unnecessarily pushing them into risk of foreclosure.

As mortgage rates on the open market remain high compared to recent years and with the closure of the VASP program, the only options available to these borrowers are either selling their home or being foreclosed upon. As VASP was the program of last resort, ending VASP has accelerated the risk to these borrowers.

Mr. Speaker, that brings us to the legislation we are considering today. This legislation attempts to offer a lifeline to those the Trump administration has unnecessarily put at risk. It is not a perfect or a complete fix, and it is likely to be too late for many of the 80,000 who are wondering today if they will still have a home in a month. Yet, it is necessary legislation that I urge the Department to implement quickly.

In the minority views filed for this legislation, I continue to urge the Secretary to reinstate some kind of assistance for veteran borrowers until this legislation is signed into law and implemented. That will take some time. Every veteran who loses their home will have no one to blame but President Trump and Secretary Collins.

Mr. Speaker, it is not too late for Secretary Collins to act, and I hope veterans, VSOs, and housing groups continue to call on him to do so. I also call on my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join those efforts instead of celebrating the end of VASP.

Mr. Speaker, I plan to support H.R. 1815, as amended, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it. This legislation should be expanding existing options for veterans to make veteran home foreclosures extremely rare and occurring only in the most extreme cases. Instead, this is a Band-Aid that likely will arrive too late for many.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the other side of the aisle highlighting the problem that veterans are facing today. Thank goodness we are working on a solution right here with H.R. 1815, and we are going to be voting on it today.

Mr. Speaker, the VA's decision to phase out the Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase program, or VASP program, was an important step by the Trump administration. This decision added billions of dollars to the VA budget without any assurance to the taxpayers that this was a good decision. Just last week, my office received information that, on top of paying \$6.3 billion to purchase VA loans, VA also spent an additional \$1.5 billion just to support their financing.

The average amount that a veteran had to pay back of their mortgage was actually less than \$25,000. Instead of solving the problem, VA chose to purchase the entire loan, costing an average of \$321,000. In no way does it make sense to solve a \$25,000 problem with a \$321,000 solution. Only in government would you do that.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that this bill would have saved money by keeping the veterans out of foreclosure. They estimated earlier this Congress that the continuing of VASP would cost the taxpayers over half a billion dollars in the next decade. That is why, under my leadership, House Republicans have sounded the alarm on the Biden administration program and the risk it could bring to VA home loans.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to urge support of H.R. 1815. It is a sensible bill. Representative VAN ORDEN and I will continue working on a cure to this problem.

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

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 1815, the VA Home Loan Program Reform Act. This legislation establishes a permanent partial claims program within the VA Home Loan Program, bringing VA in line with all of the other Federal agencies that lend monies for homes.

As the chairman of the House Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, I am responsible for the two most successful programs the history of the United States Government has ever administered, the GI home loan program and the GI VA home loan guaranty.

Mr. Speaker, it is my responsibility to make sure that every Active-Duty servicemember, every veteran, and every American who chooses to join the military in the future has the opportunity to use this program to borrow money to fulfill the American Dream, which is homeownership.

As stated previously, when an unelected series of bureaucrats invented a program that has not existed

since someone first lent someone seashells to buy a cave, they greatly endangered that. I am incredibly proud of the Trump administration for standing up to stop this.

As Chairman BOST noted, there was a \$25,000 problem, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs threw a \$320,000 wrench at it, and that had the potential to collapse this program over time.

I will not allow that on my watch.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, Secretary Collins, and President Donald J. Trump for helping to ensure that every American who has served, is serving, and will serve the United States of America to protect our freedoms has the ability to fulfill the American Dream, which is homeownership.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I point out that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), the chairman, is making a mountain out of nothing. The greater risk either way to the government, the home loan program, the VA is on the hook for these loans whether they hold them, or whether lenders hold the note.

What we are talking about here is 80,000 veterans with highly distressed loans being unnecessarily put at risk, and the Biden administration did what it could given changing circumstances from an expiring emergency authority, to having to put a second pause on any foreclosures on these veterans, to finding a solution in VASP.

I am supportive of a replacement to VASP, but it is inexplicable why the Secretary would suddenly, without notice, end the program for veterans who very much right at this very moment would have liked to have applied for VASP before it had been terminated. Yet, as we speak, there is no solution. Regardless of how quickly we move in this Chamber or in the Senate, it is going to take time to stand up this replacement program in time. Meanwhile, we will see veterans lose their homes, all for a very flimsy reason.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, but context is important. This legislation is now critically important because of recent actions by this administration.

This legislation also includes funding for the homelessness programs passed as part of the Elizabeth Dole Act last Congress. The Trump-Collins VA continues to drag their feet on sections of the Dole Act that increase our ability to get homeless veterans housed and off of the streets.

Mr. Speaker, I will address Chairman BOST's remarks that the reason portions of the Dole Act were not implemented, regarding the grant and per diem sections for the homeless, were due to the Biden administration's failure.

□ 1700

This is not true. The Biden administration clearly articulated the policy

needed in the Dole Act. The chairman failed to include those in the bill before passage last Congress.

Now, the Trump veteran housing crisis first cuts off foreclosure assistance, driving veterans into homelessness, then blocks aid to homelessness providers. My colleagues want to claim today that we are fixing the Trump veteran housing crisis, but if they are serious, they need to join our calls for immediate action by Secretary Collins.

First, we need to implement the Dole Act, including the section on augmentations to the grant and per diem program for getting homeless off the streets. We need to stop the firing of veterans working at VA. We need to halt veteran foreclosures until, at the very least, the legislation we are considering today has been implemented. We need to bring back VASP to offer borrowers more avenues to keep their homes; otherwise, President Trump may see the number of homeless veterans double in a single year.

I will close by saying, again, that I support H.R. 1815, the VA Home Loan Program Reform Act, as amended, but action is truly needed before it is too late.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I do think a response is necessary to clear up what was spoken of from the other side of the aisle. One is that the Veterans Home Loan program does not assume the entire loss of the existing program during VASP, but what it did is, because it is a loan guarantee, it was 25 percent. I think that needs to be clear for the record.

This bill is the cure, I believe, for the problems that we are having right now. At least it gives off-step to secure these loans to make sure that as few as possible face foreclosure. It is a good bill. It is a good bill that will receive support from both sides of the aisle. The argument before was just that. It was an argument before.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of North Carolina). 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. 1815, 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.

VA BUDGET SHORTFALL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1823) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Comptroller General of the United States to report on certain funding shortfalls in the De-

partment of Veterans Affairs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1823

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 "VA Budget Shortfall Accountability Act".

SECTION 2. FUNDING SHORTFALLS IN CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: REVIEWS; REPORTS.

(a) FIRST GAO REVIEW.—

(1) REVIEW REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall begin a review regarding the circumstances surrounding, and the causes of—

(A) the shortfall in the funding of the Veterans Benefits Administration for fiscal year 2024; and

(B) the expected shortfall in the funding of the Veterans Health Administration in fiscal year 2025.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The review under this subsection shall include the following elements:

(A) A comparison of monthly obligations and expenditures in relevant accounts against the spending plan of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(B) Any transfers between accounts described in subparagraph (A).

(C) The reasons for any significant diversions of obligations or expenditures from such spending plan.

(D) An analysis of the accuracy of any projections or estimates relevant to diversions described in subparagraph (C).

(E) Remedial actions the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may take—

(i) to improve the accuracy of supporting information submitted under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, with respect to the Department; and

(ii) to prevent funding shortfalls for the Department.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after completing such review, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs a written report containing the results and findings of such review.

(b) SUBSEQUENT GAO REVIEWS.—In each of the five calendar years following the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall conduct a review including the elements described in subsection (a)(2), and submit a report described in subsection (a)(3), regarding the funding of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the most recent fiscal year to end before the date of such review.

(c) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Not later than 30 days after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives a report of the Comptroller General under subsection (a) or (b), the Secretary shall submit such report to—

(1) the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate; and

(2) the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

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 H.R. 1823, as amended.