

RESTORE FOOD AID FUNDING

(Mr. MAGAZINER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the 31st time to call on the Trump administration to restore life-saving food aid for malnourished children.

Over the weekend, I had a chance to visit the Edesia Nutrition factory in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, one of two factories in the United States that manufactures this ready-to-use therapeutic food. This is used to treat starving children whose organs have failed and are no longer able to process traditional food to get them back to health.

For years, the United States saved millions of lives with this product, sourced entirely from U.S. farmers and factories, until the Trump administration froze funding.

The time has come for that funding to be restored, as the administration promised they would do, but have not delivered on.

For the 31st time, my message is simple: If you say you will do it, do it. I will keep speaking out every day until the administration honors its word.

Restore the funding.

ENDING WASTE OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS IN CALIFORNIA

(Mr. KILEY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, this last week, we won a momentous victory in cutting off further Federal funding for the California high-speed rail disaster. Yet, no sooner had the announcement been made than the Governor of California ran to court to file his latest frivolous lawsuit.

I say "his latest" because it was just a couple of weeks ago that Governor Newsom was unanimously defeated before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on his National Guard lawsuit.

Yet, this frivolous lawsuit is particularly perverse because the Governor is now wasting taxpayer dollars suing so that he is able to continue wasting taxpayer dollars on an epic scale on a project that will go down as the single biggest waste of taxpayer dollars in U.S. history.

The good news is that this lawsuit is going nowhere, and we now have a chance to finally wind this embarrassing project down so that the tax dollars of Californians can go where they are needed: toward fixing our crumbling roads.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1450

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McDOWELL) at 2 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

PROTECTING REGULAR ORDER FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2025

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 423) to protect regular order for budgeting for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 423

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PROTECTING REGULAR ORDER FOR VETERANS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the "Protecting Regular Order for Veterans Act of 2025" or the "PRO Veterans Act of 2025".

(b) **QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS ON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BUDGETARY SHORTFALLS.**—

(1) **QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS.**—

(A) **QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS REQUIRED.**—During the first quarter beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act and in each quarter thereafter until the date that is three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide to the appropriate committees of Congress a quarterly briefing, in person, on the budget of the Department of Veterans Affairs and any shortfall the Department may be experiencing.

(B) **PLANS.**—In any case in which the Secretary informs Congress during a briefing under paragraph (1) that the Department is experiencing a shortfall, the Secretary shall, during such briefing, present the plans of the Secretary to address or mitigate the shortfall.

(2) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

(A) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(i) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(B) **SHORTFALL.**—The term "shortfall", with respect to a fiscal year, means that the amount of appropriations required by the Department of Veterans Affairs for such fiscal year to meet all of the statutory obliga-

tions of the Department during that fiscal year exceeds the amount of appropriations requested for the Department for that fiscal year in the budget of the President submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, for that fiscal year.

(C) **LIMITATIONS ON PROVISION OF INCENTIVES FOR CRITICAL SKILLS TO SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**—Section 706(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(7)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B)(ii), a critical skill incentive may not be provided under paragraph (1) to an employee of the Department employed in a Senior Executive Service position, or a position in another comparable system for senior-level Government employees, as defined by the Secretary, whose position is at the Central Office of the Department, including the Veterans Health Administration, the Veterans Benefits Administration, and the National Cemetery Administration, regardless of the actual location where the employee performs the functions of the position.

"(B)(i) A critical skill incentive provided under paragraph (1) to an employee of the Department employed in a Senior Executive Service position, or a position in another comparable system for senior-level Government employees, as defined by the Secretary, not described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may only be provided—

"(I) on an individual basis and may not be provided to a group of such employees; and

"(II) upon approval of the following officers or those serving in an acting capacity:

"(aa) The Under Secretary for Benefits, the Under Secretary for Health, or the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs.

"(bb) The Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration.

"(cc) The Director of the Office of Management or the Chief Financial Officer.

"(dd) The Assistant Secretary for Accountability and Whistleblower Protection.

"(ee) The General Counsel.

"(ff) Such other officers as the Secretary determines appropriate.

"(ii) In the case of an employee of the Department employed in a Senior Executive Service position, or a position in another comparable system for senior-level Government employees, as defined by the Secretary, whose position is primarily at the Central Office of the Department, but who performs some portion of the employee's job function at other facilities of the Department, as defined by the Secretary, not at Central Office—

"(I) the employee shall not be considered described in subparagraph (A) with respect to the portion of the employee's job function that is based out of non-Central Office facilities of the Department; and

"(II) any critical skill incentive provided under paragraph (1) to the employee for the portion of the employee's job function that is based out of facilities of the Department other than the Central Office shall be proportionate to the time spent at those Department facilities.

"(C)(i) Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Protecting Regular Order for Veterans Act of 2025, and not less frequently than once each year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives an annual report on the employees of the Department employed in a Senior Executive Service position, or a position in another comparable system for senior-level Government employees, as defined by the Secretary, who were provided a critical skill incentive under paragraph (1).

“(ii) Reports submitted pursuant to clause (i) may be submitted by incorporating their contents into other congressionally mandated reports to the committees described in such clause.

“(D) In this paragraph, the term ‘Senior Executive Service position’ has the meaning given such term in section 3132(a) of title 5.”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS EXPERIENCE OFFICE.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the ‘Improving Veterans’ Experience Act of 2025’.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 3 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 325. Veterans experience office

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the Department within the Office of the Secretary an office to be known as the ‘Veterans Experience Office’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Office’).

“(b) **HEAD OF OFFICE.**—(1) The head of the Office shall be the Chief Veterans Experience Officer.

“(2) The Chief Veterans Experience Officer shall—

“(A) be appointed by the Secretary from among individuals the Secretary considers qualified to perform the duties of the position;

“(B) report directly to the Secretary; and

“(C) be responsible for carrying out the functions of the Office set forth under subsection (c).

“(c) **FUNCTION.**—The functions of the Office are as follows:

“(1) Carrying out the key customer experience initiatives of the Department relating to veterans’ and other beneficiaries’ satisfaction with and usage of benefits and services furnished under laws administered by the Secretary for which they are eligible, including setting the strategy, framework, policy, and other guidance for the Department relating to customer experience, including ensuring the activities of the Office and those of other organizations and offices within the Department are coordinated and not duplicative.

“(2) Requiring the heads of other organizations and offices within the Department to report regularly on customer experience metrics, action plans, and other customer experience improvement efforts to the Chief Veterans Experience Officer.

“(3) Collecting veteran-derived data—

“(A) to determine veteran and beneficiary satisfaction with and usage of the benefits and services furnished under laws administered by the Secretary for which they are eligible; and

“(B) to be considered during policymaking.

“(4) Providing strategic guidance and strategies to Department entities for engaging with veterans and beneficiaries regarding benefits and services furnished under laws administered by the Secretary, including those not using such benefits and services.

“(5) Assessing and advising the Secretary on the accuracy and helpfulness of the websites and other customer-facing information of the Department, be it available electronically or in any other format.

“(6) Assessing and advising the Secretary on the status and opportunities for improvement of the customer service efforts of the Department.

“(d) **REPORTS.**—(1) Each year, the Chief Veterans Experience Officer shall submit to the Secretary a summary of the data received by the Chief Veterans Experience Officer under subsection (c)(2).

“(2) Each year, not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary receives the summary under paragraph (1), the

Secretary shall submit to Congress an annual summary and analysis of the matters summarized pursuant to such paragraph.

“(3) Each annual summary submitted pursuant to paragraph (2) shall include the following:

“(A) Data regarding customer service and experience feedback, disaggregated by benefit or service furnished under laws administered by the Secretary, and relevant demographic data of the veterans and beneficiaries providing the feedback.

“(B) Data regarding veteran and beneficiary satisfaction with and usage of benefits or services, disaggregated by benefit or service furnished under laws administered by the Secretary, and relevant demographic data of the veterans and beneficiaries providing the feedback, including—

“(i) potential reasons for not using the benefits or services, such as—

“(I) eligibility;

“(II) lack of knowledge or awareness of existence of benefit or service;

“(III) barriers of technology, information, or time; and

“(IV) other related reasons; and

“(ii) an analysis of how such reasons may be addressed.

“(e) **STAFF AND RESOURCES.**—(1) The Secretary shall ensure that—

“(A) the Office has such staff, resources, and access to customer service and experience information as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Office; and

“(B) any information provided to the Office does not include personally identifiable information of an individual veteran, survivor, dependent, or other beneficiary unless such individual provides appropriate consent to allow such information to be shared with the Office.

“(2) Funds available for basic pay and other administrative expenses of other Department organizations and offices may be available to reimburse the Office for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs for services provided to such organizations if the Secretary determines that contributing to such costs will not undermine the ability of any such organization or office to provide services required by such office.

“(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize an increase in the number of full-time employees otherwise authorized for the Department.

“(f) **PRIVACY.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the Chief Veterans Experience Officer to disclose any record in contravention of section 552a of title 5 (commonly referred to as the ‘Privacy Act of 1974’).

“(g) **SUNSET.**—The requirements and authorities of this section shall terminate on September 30, 2028.”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 3 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“325. Veterans Experience Office.”.

(C) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REVIEW OF VETERANS EXPERIENCE OFFICE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS.**—Not later than 540 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) complete an analysis of the methodology, effectiveness, and implementation of findings and feedback of veterans and beneficiaries used by the Department of Veterans Affairs, including the Veterans Experience Office, to improve veteran and beneficiary customer experience and satisfaction, including through the use of what are known as “trust-scores”, Veteran Signals also known as “VSignals”, and related survey

and data collection activities, processes, and initiatives; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report setting forth the findings of the Comptroller General with respect to the analysis completed pursuant to paragraph (1).

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. 423.

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. 423, introduced by my colleague and fellow marine from across the Capitol, Senator DAN SULLIVAN from Alaska.

S. 423 would require the Secretary of the VA to provide quarterly briefings to Congress on the budget execution and any projected budget shortfalls. It also creates new guardrails on the use of critical skills incentive bonuses to make sure they only go to the employees whom they are intended for.

Finally, it would codify the Veterans Experience Office to improve the delivery of benefits to veterans and their beneficiaries.

These efforts already exist at the VA, and this legislation simply makes these efforts permanent. This bill is a straightforward, commonsense effort that partners with Secretary Collins and the Trump administration to establish greater accountability and oversight of career senior executives at the Department.

The need for this legislation comes in the wake of the critical skills incentive payments scheme uncovered by my committee during the last Congress. The days of waste, fraud, and abuse are over.

After the OIG identified over \$10 million in improper critical skills incentive payments awarded to VA executives, Congress recognized the need for accountability. Let me be clear. I believe the VA employees deserve to be recognized for the extraordinary work they do.

Critical skills incentive bonuses are useful tools for the VA to attract talented staff who are dedicated to serving veterans. However, some of these bonuses were as high as \$100,000 for D.C. office staff employees, more than double what a single veteran who is 100 percent disabled would receive in an entire year.

Additionally, during the investigation, my staff identified employees who

received these critical skills bonuses while they were under investigation for misconduct at the VA.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to make sure this never happens again. I am proud of the work done by my friend, Secretary Collins, and I believe the PRO Veterans Act will support his mission to build up the VA's workforce and put veterans first.

In addition to stopping the glut of critical skills payments from going to executives, this legislation would require the VA to provide in-person budget briefings to Congress every quarter for 3 years, detailing the agency's financial projections and budget management strategy.

After the Veterans Benefits Administration's shortfall crisis manufactured by the Biden administration cost the government billions of dollars, increasing the frequency of these conversations will help Congress execute its constitutional oversight and appropriations responsibilities.

While leadership in the Biden White House was replaced with the veterans-first Trump administration by the American people, many of the career VA employees who contributed to the crisis remain. Some of these employees have operated far too long without scrutiny and with no consequences for planning failures that total billions of dollars.

Without some ways of tying poor performance to outcomes for these employees, what message does the business-as-usual status quo send to rank-and-file employees?

When they hear of senior executives filling each other's pockets with improper bonuses, what does that tell the frontline VA police officer, the hospital housekeepers, and the food service staff?

It tells them that the efforts they bring to the job really don't matter. It tells them that executives will score a nice bonus despite terrible performance and that they are being held to a different standard.

That is the wrong message to send to VA employees and to the veterans who rely on the VA for lifesaving healthcare.

Now, I applaud both parties in this Congress and the current administration for taking the right steps and working together to pass this bill and begin the work of restoring that trust.

This is commonsense legislation that ensures the VA operates with basic accountability and protects the future of benefits for our veterans who have earned them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 423, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, openness and transparency in the budgeting process are crucial to enabling Members of Congress to exercise our constitutional power of the purse, conducting proper oversight and ensuring that we are good stewards of the taxpayers' money.

That is why I have been extremely frustrated by the lack of budget information put forward by the current administration. Just this week, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in a statement that was both insulting and condescending, said that "it wasn't in our interest" to release a full budget plan to the American people.

Yet, we have not heard a peep of objection from my colleagues across the aisle, not even a hint that they might rise from their knees after having been browbeaten by this administration time and time again, and stand up for the constitutional prerogatives of the United States Congress, a coequal branch of government. In the context of this bill, which was proposed to demand more budget information, it is confounding.

Nevertheless, here we are. To understand why we are considering this bill at this moment, we have to go back to last Congress and the end of the Biden administration.

In mid-July 2024, the VA informed the committee of expected funding shortfalls for the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Health Administration. At the time, VBA was facing a projected shortfall of \$2.9 billion for fiscal year 2024, and VHA was facing a potential shortfall of \$12 billion for fiscal year 2025.

Now, out of an abundance of caution and to ensure veterans' benefits weren't disrupted, Congress quickly passed H.R. 9468, the Veterans Benefits Continuity and Accountability Supplemental Appropriations Act, which provided VBA with additional funding of roughly \$2.9 billion.

□ 1500

The bill also included accountability measures that required additional reporting by the Secretary and an inspector general review of the circumstances surrounding the projected shortfalls.

A few weeks later, on October 30, 2024, VA notified the committee that it had reviewed its calculations at the conclusion of fiscal year 2024 and determined that it would not have experienced a shortfall at VBA, and, in fact, had carryover funding in addition to the funding provided by the supplemental. VA also determined at the close of fiscal year 2024 that its projected budget shortfall in fiscal year 2025 for VHA would not be as significant as originally projected in July.

Its revised estimate for the fiscal year 2025 shortfall provided on Monday, November 25, 2024, was \$6.6 billion, much less than originally projected. This was largely because of higher than expected carryover and extreme belt-tightening at local VA clinics and hospitals.

However, here is where paths diverge. In the wake of the passage of H.R. 9468, both VA's Office of Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office conducted and released their respective reports on the circumstances

surrounding these real and projected shortfalls. These reports though have become a bit of an inkblot test. Where I and my Democratic colleagues see an accounting process that could be improved, as all processes can be, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle see criminal behavior and a malicious intent to deceive Congress and scare veterans. I encourage the public to read these reports and judge for themselves.

In one of the most egregious and politically naked overreactions I have seen in some time, the chairman sent a letter to the Department of Justice urging the Attorney General to investigate three former Biden administration officials for criminal wrongdoing in handling last year's budget shortfall. To say the least, I was shocked by this letter. We thoroughly addressed VA budget issues last year, and neither the inspector general nor GAO found any evidence of criminal wrongdoing—none, Mr. Speaker.

So why call on Trump's Attorney General to revisit it? The answer seems very clear to me: political payback. This was a spurious attempt to tarnish the reputations of officials who led one of the most successful periods in VA history, marked by high veteran satisfaction, strong performance, and the largest expansion of veterans' benefits ever, by way of the PACT Act.

Rather than hold President Trump and Secretary Collins accountable for the ongoing decline at VA over the last several months, my colleagues pushed a baseless investigation, a clear distraction meant to deflect from the damage being done under their watch.

Nevertheless, more information is always better. As I said, we should demand transparency from whatever administration is in charge. While I find the impetus behind this bill to be retaliatory in nature, I do agree with my majority colleagues that the Trump administration budget formulation and execution process warrants scrutiny.

Secretary Collins has already broken the law by redirecting funds without congressional approval. I worry that the trend will continue over the next few years. I hope my colleagues will join me in rigorous oversight of the Trump administration's approach to VA's budget.

There are two other provisions in this bill I would like to discuss very briefly. This legislation would codify the Veterans Experience Office, or VEO, which was first established during the Obama administration. I appreciate that the Senate incorporated changes we had suggested to their text that would strengthen the functions of VEO so that it serves as an office truly focused on improving the veteran experience with data-driven approaches.

Additionally, in the Honoring our PACT Act, Congress authorized VA to utilize critical skills incentives to attract and retain the workforce it needed to implement the largest expansion of veteran benefits in recent history.

While use of those incentives has been overwhelmingly successful, VA did make some initial missteps in oversight and utilization of the awards for senior executives. These missteps were corrected during the last administration. Despite what my colleague says about investigations, the administration was quite forthcoming and transparent about those missteps. The language in this legislation would tighten the circumstances under which critical skills incentives can be used to retain high-level VA employees.

While I am generally supportive of this additional oversight to ensure these awards are being used appropriately, I continue to be concerned with Secretary Collins' ability to recruit and retain the top-level talent we need for caring for veterans at VA.

Earlier this month, Secretary Collins celebrated that 30,000 VA employees will be departing the agency by the end of this fiscal year under his tenure. Can you imagine that, Mr. Speaker? The head of an organization was patting themselves on the back for making their organization so toxic that nearly 10 percent of their workforce quits? This is something to be proud of? It is unconscionable. What is worse are the absurd assertions that veterans won't be negatively affected by such drastic reductions.

There is simply no way that the delivery of veteran care and benefits will not be affected by Secretary Collins' continued efforts to demonize and demoralize the VA workforce.

Again, I am pleased to see that with this bill my colleagues have finally decided to demand transparency from this administration. I wait with bated breath for their reaction when the White House simply chooses to ignore it, as they have repeatedly done with this Congress. My suspicion is that we will continue to see my colleagues on the other side of the aisle hide in fear of their master, but I would love to be proven wrong.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time, and I will take this time in closing to bring up a few things.

One, for the people listening to the rhetoric that came from the other side of the aisle, they need to understand that the VA has 477,000 employees. With that massive amount of employees, over the last several years, many of the jobs were not getting done correctly even though we put out a lot of money and hired a lot of employees.

Secretary Collins has said that he will reduce staffing based on attrition—attrition, mind you. We won't lose docs. We won't lose nurses. We won't lose frontline workers. We will be good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars.

So as the rhetoric comes from the other side on this administration and the fact that when they were in the majority and it was the Biden adminis-

tration they didn't push for this legislation shows that it is more about the politics than it is about taking care of our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of our Members to support this bill, 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, S. 423.

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.

□ 1510

ACES ACT OF 2025

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 201) to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the prevalence and mortality of cancer among individuals who served as active duty aircrew in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 201

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 "ACES Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL ACADEMIES STUDY ON PREVALENCE AND MORTALITY OF CANCER AMONG INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVED AS ACTIVE DUTY AIRCREW IN THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (in this section referred to as the "National Academies"), under which the National Academies shall conduct a study on the prevalence and mortality of cancers among covered individuals.

(2) DEADLINE.—

(A) DATE.—The Secretary shall finalize the agreement under paragraph (1) by not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary enters negotiations with the National Academies with respect to such agreement.

(B) REPORT; BRIEFINGS.—If the Secretary fails to satisfy the requirement under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

(i) submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(I) an explanation of the reasons the Secretary failed to satisfy such requirement; and

(II) an estimate of the date on which the Secretary will finalize the agreement under paragraph (1); and

(ii) not less frequently than once every 60 days after the date on which the Secretary failed to satisfy such requirement, provide to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a briefing on the progress of the Secretary toward finalizing such agreement.

(b) STUDY.—The study required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify exposures associated with military occupations of covered individuals, including relating to chemicals, compounds, agents, and other phenomena;

(2) review the literature to determine associations between exposures referred to in paragraph (1) and the incidence or prevalence of overall cancer morbidity, overall cancer mortality, and increased incidence or prevalence of—

- (A) brain cancer;
- (B) colon and rectal cancers;
- (C) kidney cancer;
- (D) lung cancer;
- (E) melanoma skin cancer;
- (F) non-Hodgkin lymphoma;
- (G) pancreatic cancer;
- (H) prostate cancer;
- (I) testicular cancer;
- (J) thyroid cancer;
- (K) urinary bladder cancer; and
- (L) other cancers as determined appropriate by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the National Academies; and

(3) determine, to the extent possible, the prevalence of and mortality from the cancers specified in paragraph (2) among covered individuals by using available sources of data, which may include—

(A) health care and other administrative databases of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, and the individual Services, respectively;

(B) the national death index maintained by the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

(C) the study conducted under section 750 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 134 Stat. 3716).

(c) REPORT.—At the conclusion of the study required under subsection (a), the National Academies shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the study described in subsection (b).

(d) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term "covered individual" means an individual who served on active duty in the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps as an aircrew member of a fixed-wing aircraft, including as a pilot, navigator, weapons systems operator, aircraft system operator, or any other crew member who regularly flew in a fixed-wing aircraft.

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. 201.

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. 201. The bill was introduced by Senators KELLY and COTTON, and the House version was introduced by my