

and best practices that are already being used in the private sector and to do so in a way that is transparent, results-driven, and veteran-focused.

The benefits are clear. A modern inventory management system will reduce waste, prevent delays in care, and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently. Most importantly, it will help restore trust in a system that too often leaves veterans feeling frustrated and forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully urge my colleagues to support this bill and join me in making a practical, bipartisan improvement to the care our veterans receive.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on H.R. 3494, the VA Hospital Inventory Management System Act, as amended.

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, 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. 3494, 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.

□ 1750

#### FOCUSED ASSISTANCE AND SKILLS TRAINING FOR VET- ERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSITION SUCCESS ACT

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4446) to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the conditions under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is required to redevelop the individualized vocational rehabilitation plan for a veteran, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4446

*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 "Focused Assistance and Skills Training for Veterans' Employment and Transition Success Act" or the "FAST VETS Act".

#### SEC. 2. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SHALL REDEVELOP INDIVIDUALIZED VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PLAN.

Section 3107 of title 38, United States Code, is amended in subsection (b)—

(1) by striking "The Secretary shall review" and inserting "(1) The Secretary shall review";

(2) by striking the second sentence; and

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

"(2) On the basis of such review, the Secretary shall—

"(A) redevelop such plan with such veteran if the Secretary determines the achievement of the long-range rehabilitation goals for such veteran is—

"(i) no longer feasible due to changes in the employment handicap of the veteran; and

"(ii) likelier under a different plan formulated under subsection (a); or

"(B) disapprove redevelopment of such plan if the Secretary determines such redevelopment is not appropriate.".

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. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4446.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4446 offered by my colleague, Representative MAXINE DEXTER, from Oregon.

H.R. 4446 would allow a veteran who has changed in their disability rating to apply for changes in their Veterans Readiness and Employment, or the VR&E plan, instead of being forced to complete their current rehabilitation plan first.

This bill is a simple fix that would remove the outdated practice that requires disabled veterans to complete their current plan before switching to a plan that may better fit the changes in their disability.

During the Biden Administration, VA damaged their relationship with veterans in the VR&E program. Under President Trump's Secretary Collins' leadership, VA is rebuilding that trust and is working to fix the program.

This Congress, the Republican majority has worked hard to improve VR&E by modernizing the program, increasing transparency, and introducing accountability to both the VA and the veterans. While this bill is a step in the right direction, I hope my colleagues recognize that there is much more work to be done to get VA to work for the veterans first.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 4446, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 4446, the Focused Assistance and Skills Training for Veterans' Employment and Transition Success, or FAST VETS Act. Introduced by Veterans' Affairs Committee member Representative DEXTER, the

VA Veterans Readiness and Employment, or VR&E program, is perhaps the greatest resource disabled veterans have to seek a new career path, but veterans are dealing with historic wait times due to program popularity and expanded eligibility under the PACT Act.

I respectfully disagree with how the chairman has framed the VR&E program and its shortcomings, but let me just proceed to the virtues of this bill.

The program is incredibly important for disabled veterans because it provides a comprehensive, individualized pathway to overcome employment barriers caused by service-connected disabilities, but with wait times weeks, or even months in some areas of the country, veterans risk missing out on the program's benefits.

Representative DEXTER's bill would make it easier for veterans to find employment while in the program and to graduate faster from the program, freeing up counselors at VA to assist the next class of disabled veterans seeking a new career.

One of the primary goals of the PACT Act was to recognize the sacrifice of so many more veterans who were injured during their time serving our Nation and to make them eligible for many of the programs offered to help them find meaningful employment such as VR&E. Now the VR&E program must keep pace with this new influx of veterans and ensure that it is meeting their needs.

I thank Representative DEXTER for her work on this bill, and I know she is already at work on additional solutions for the program, such as measures to maintain and support the staff at VA tasked with carrying out the program.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate as well to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. DEXTER), who is the author of H.R. 4446 and who serves on our Health Subcommittee and our Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee.

Ms. DEXTER. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their words of support today for the FAST VETS Act.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in strong support of the FAST VETS Act, Focused Assistance and Skills Training for Veterans' Employment and Transition Success, or FAST VETS Act.

I am grateful to Representatives MESSMER, MCGARVEY, and VAN ORDEN for joining me in this bipartisan effort to better serve our Nation's veterans.

Like many physicians, I trained at the VA where the sign on the door said: The price of freedom is visible here. Our veterans gave everything for this country. Our promise in return is that they will not just get by in civilian life, they will thrive.

Congress must ensure employment readiness programs truly work for veterans, and that is exactly what the

FAST VETS Act does. I am heartened that my first bill to come to the floor of the House advances our commitment to those who served.

The FAST VETS Act is about delivering on our promise to those who have served. Veterans who live with service-connected disabilities deserve every opportunity to succeed in civilian life. That includes access to the Veterans Readiness and Employment, VR&E, program, which provides job training, education, employment accommodations, and the resources to build a meaningful career. However, too often, that support comes too late. In Portland, it currently takes more than 65 days for a veteran to be connected with a vocational rehabilitation counselor. That is at least 2 months of missed income, missed classes, and missed opportunity. That is unacceptable.

The FAST VETS Act is a critical first step to addressing the backlog. It establishes clearer standards and prioritizes outcome-focused planning to support more veterans successfully and efficiently moving through the program and into the workforce.

Ensuring every veteran gets the support they deserve helps prevent housing instability, reduces food insecurity, and strengthens mental health. We owe it to them to act with urgency and purpose.

I am committed to continuing this work until every veteran has a clear, supported path to meaningful and gainful employment. The FAST VETS Act moves us closer to that goal, and I am proud to have led this effort.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote “yes” on this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate my good friend from the State of Oregon on what will become the passage of her first bill.

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. In closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 4446, the FAST VETS Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. In closing, Madam Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support the legislation. I want to congratulate the gentlewoman for passing her first piece of legislation in the House, 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. 4446.

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.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### RELATING TO A NATIONAL EMERGENCY BY THE PRESIDENT ON JULY 30, 2025

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Meeks of New York moves that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be discharged from further consideration of House Joint Resolution 117.

MOTION TO TABLE OFFERED BY MR. MAST

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Mast of Florida moves to table the motion to discharge.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to table will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules with respect to H.R. 3400.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 200, nays 198, not voting 34, as follows:

[Roll No. 265]

YEAS—200

Aderholt  
Alford  
Allen  
Amodei (NV)  
Arrington  
Babin  
Baird  
Balderson  
Barrett  
Baumgartner  
Bean (FL)  
Begich  
Bentz  
Bergman  
Bice  
Biggs (AZ)  
Biggs (SC)  
Bilirakis  
Boehert  
Bost  
Brecheen  
Bresnahan  
Buchanan  
Burchett  
Burlison  
Calvert  
Cammack  
Carey  
Carter (TX)  
Ciscomani  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyde  
Cole  
Comer

Crane  
Crank  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Davidson  
De La Cruz  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Donalds  
Downing  
Edwards  
Ellzey  
Emmer  
Estes  
Evans (CO)  
Ezell  
Fallon  
Fedorchak  
Feenstra  
Fine  
Finstad  
Fischbach  
Fitzgerald  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Flood  
Fong  
Foxx  
Franklin, Scott  
Fry  
Fulcher  
Garbarino  
Gill (TX)  
Gimenez  
Goldman (TX)

Gonzales, Tony  
Gooden  
Gosar  
Greene (GA)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hageman  
Hamadeh (AZ)  
Haridopolos  
Harrigan  
Harris (MD)  
Harris (NC)  
Harshbarger  
Hern (OK)  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill (AR)  
Hinson  
Houchin  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Hunt  
Hurd (CO)  
Issa  
Jack  
Johnson (LA)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kean  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kennedy (UT)  
Kiggans (VA)

Kiley (CA)  
Kim  
Knott  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
LaMalfa  
Langworthy  
Latta  
Lawler  
Lee (FL)  
Letlow  
Lucas  
Luna  
Luttrell  
Mace  
Mackenzie  
Malliotakis  
Maloy  
Mann  
Mast  
McCaul  
McClain  
McClintock  
McCormick  
McDowell  
McGuire  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Mills

Moolenaar  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (NC)  
Moore (UT)  
Moore (WV)  
Moran  
Murphy  
Nehls  
Norman  
Nunn (IA)  
Ogles  
Onder  
Owens  
Palmer  
Patronis  
Perry  
Pfluger  
Reschenthaler  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Rouzer  
Rulli  
Scalise  
Schmidt  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Self  
Sessions  
Shreve  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)

Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Stauber  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Steube  
Strong  
Stutzman  
Taylor  
Tenney  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
Turner (OH)  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Dyne  
Van Orden  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Westerman  
Wied  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zinke

#### NAYS—198

Adams  
Aguilar  
Amo  
Ansari  
Auchincloss  
Bacon  
Balint  
Barragan  
Beatty  
Bell  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop  
Bonamici  
Boyle (PA)  
Brown  
Brownley  
Budzinski  
Bynum  
Carbajal  
Carson  
Carter (LA)  
Casar  
Case  
Casten  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Cherfilus-  
McCormick  
Chu  
Cisneros  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Conaway  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Craig  
Crockett  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (NC)  
Dean (PA)  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
Dexter  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Elfreth  
Escobar  
Espallat  
Evans (PA)  
Fields  
Figures  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Foushee

Frankel, Lois  
Friedman  
Frost  
Garamendi  
Garcia (CA)  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Gillen  
Golden (ME)  
Goldman (NY)  
Gomez  
Gonzalez, V.  
Goodlander  
Harder (CA)  
Hayes  
Himes  
Horsford  
Houlahan  
Huffman  
Ivey  
Jackson (IL)  
Jacobs  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (TX)  
Kamlager-Dove  
Kaptur  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy (NY)  
Khanna  
Krishnamoorthi  
Landsman  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latimer  
Lee (NV)  
Lee (PA)  
Levin  
Liccardo  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Lynch  
Mannion  
Massie  
Matsui  
McBath  
McBride  
McClain Delaney  
McClellan  
McCollum  
McDonald Rivet  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
McIver  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Min  
Moore (WI)  
Morelle  
Morrison  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin

Nadler  
Neguse  
Norcross  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Olsewski  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Perez  
Peters  
Pingree  
Pou  
Pressley  
Quigley  
Ramirez  
Randall  
Raskin  
Riley (NY)  
Rivas  
Ross  
Ruiz  
Ryan  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Simon  
Smith (WA)  
Sorensen  
Soto  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Subramanyam  
Suozi  
Swalwell  
Sykes  
Takano  
Thanedar  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Tlaib  
Tokuda  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Trahan  
Tran  
Underwood  
Vargas  
Vasquez  
Veasey  
Velázquez  
Vindman