

Secretary Principi acknowledged that he needed at least \$1.2 billion more to meet the medical needs of America's veterans than President Bush had requested in his Fiscal Year 2005 budget submission to Congress. My friend from Illinois showed his usual courage and tenacity, and fought to get Secretary Principi the money they both knew—the money we all knew—was needed to properly care for our veterans. And even if this supplemental funding is provided, there will still be at least a \$600 million shortfall in VA funding this fiscal year.

What does this shortfall mean in human terms? It means not enough psychiatric nurses to care for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other psychiatric disorders. It means some veterans will not get prosthetic devices they need to function in the real world. It means that hospital administrators will have to raid medical care accounts in order to pay for equipment repairs to keep air conditioners functioning and electrical systems working. It means longer clinic waiting times for veterans seeking appointments. All of these shortages are both unacceptable and avoidable.

If we can find the money to buy the hardware to send our men and women into battle, there's no excuse for us not to find the money to pay for their wounds of war after they come home. Shortchanging America's veterans on America's birthday is truly a manifestation of Tom Paine's sunshine patriotism. I urge my colleagues to not only support this supplemental, but to demand that the President and the House leadership provide the full funds the VA needs to care for our wounded warriors.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the supplemental appropriations for veterans' medical care. This measure corrects the \$1 billion shortfall in veterans' health care funding, which was belatedly acknowledged by the Bush Administration last week. House Democrats have been standing with America's veterans fighting to increase support for veterans' health care. Republicans have consistently chosen other priorities and voted against veterans' healthcare, leading to a shortfall that did not have to happen.

This measure is a first step to correcting this gross underfunding of our veterans' health care system. However, additional steps need to be taken to comprehensively address this serious problem. I am troubled that many of our Nation's veterans are unable to receive the health care they need in a timely fashion. Without adequate funding, veterans will continue to stand in line, waiting for the services they have earned. Let us keep our promises to our veterans and servicemembers who have fought for our country. I will continue to fight for funding that meets our active and retired military personnel's health care needs.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the supplemental appropriation of \$975,000,000 that will fill the huge gap that was left by the Administration's FY 2005 request for the Veteran's Administration health care system. While my veteran constituents such as a 23-year old male who now suffers from kidney and liver failure due in part to administrative failings in the Veterans Healthcare Administration. The paltry funding levels set by the Administration and codified by the Republican Congressional Leadership have caused young soldiers like my constituent to suffer unnecessarily and cause their

parents to shed tears. I just visited this young man at the Walter Reed Medical Center last week, and his condition reminded me of the very irresponsible work of this Administration.

Hundreds of thousands of veterans just like my young constituent are being told that they cannot enroll in VA health care. When the current Administration decided to ban new Priority 8 veterans from enrolling in January 2003, it estimated that by 2005 the number of affected veterans would be 522,000. Some veterans' hospitals are reporting shortages of medical supplies. Furthermore, the number of Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans lined up for treatment is expected to rise dramatically as the poorly managed war effort causes physical and mental ailments to increase exponentially.

In the 18th Congressional district of Texas alone there are more than 38,000 veterans and they make up almost ten percent of this district's civilian population over the age of 18. Yet, despite these large numbers we often forget about our veterans. We do this in part because our men and women of the armed services come home from war and lead normal productive lives; often our veterans go unnoticed in the general population. However, our veterans are not normal people; they are truly extraordinary individuals who have changed the course of our lives in ways that we may not even realize. I hope we will always keep this thought in mind; we cannot forget to celebrate our veterans, for if we forget to honor them, we forget all that makes this nation truly great.

There are over 26,550,000 veterans in the United States, the great majority of whom rely upon these services to maintain a healthy standard of living. In the 18th Congressional District alone there are more than 38,000 veterans and they make up almost ten percent of the district's civilian population over the age of 18. These veterans rely upon the great services offered at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston. Of course any great medical facility is only as good as its health care personnel.

Mr. Speaker, today's vote is the first step to correcting an enormous underfunding of our veterans. However, this amount does not match that offered by the other body—therefore, the problem has not been solved, and soldiers like my young constituent at Walter Reed will continue to suffer the dire and potentially fatal consequences.

This body must increase funding to \$1.5 billion so that our debt to those who have sacrificed for us is paid. Even if my colleagues pass this measure, these men and women will not receive the benefits before July 4! The amount offered by the House Republicans did not match the figure that passed in the other body. It is truly shameful that we must watch our Republican colleagues give piecemeal care to our veterans when the needs are so urgent.

For the reasons above stated, I support this measure, but I ask that my colleagues continue to press for full funding at the level passed in the other body.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3130.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. WALSH. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 198) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 198

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, June 30, 2005, or Friday, July 1, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, July 11, 2005, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on Thursday, June 30, 2005, Friday, July 1, 2005, or Saturday, July 2, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, July 11, 2005, or at such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2005

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on this legislative day, it adjourn to meet at 6 p.m. on the third constitutional day thereafter, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in House Concurrent Resolution 198, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

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