

with him. I have enjoyed debating with him and listening to his perspective. There is not very much we agree on, but having said that, we have, I think, had a good relationship, a collegial relationship, and a respectful relationship. The committee will not be the same without his voice and without his insight, so I want to thank him.

Mr. Speaker, I again urge people to vote "no" on the rule and on the final bill because of the way it has been messed up.

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend JIM MCGOVERN for those kind remarks. The feeling is indeed mutual. I certainly have enjoyed serving with him and all the members of the Rules Committee on both sides of the aisle, and I thank him for his kind remarks.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 1099.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I rise again in support of this rule and in recognition of the importance of the underlying bill. I do want to take this opportunity in closing to recognize the hard work and efforts of Chairman THOMAS and Chairman BARTON, as well as their respective committees, for the final product that we have before us today.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize and thank Chairman THOMAS for his decades of service to this House and the people of his district, as well as Americans all across this Nation.

BILL THOMAS, a brilliant professor from Bakersfield, has truly been a leader across the board, and his expertise and devotion of 28 years of service across this country will truly be missed.

Mr. Speaker, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 is a very important piece of legislation that positively impacts each and every American by fostering economic growth, driving innovation, increasing our energy supply, and improving the quality of health care in this country. As the 109th Congress draws to a close, and the minority prepares to become the majority, I believe that we must work together to produce legislation like this that recognizes the fact that when the government gets out of the way, Americans can do what they do best, and that is what is best for America.

I want to encourage all of my colleagues to support this rule and support the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. 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 question will be postponed.

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 on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

RECORD votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

VETERANS BENEFITS, HEALTH CARE, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 2006

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 3421) to authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 3421

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION MATTERS

- Sec. 101. Agent or attorney representation in veterans benefits cases before the Department of Veterans Affairs.

TITLE II—HEALTH MATTERS

- Sec. 201. Additional mental health providers.
- Sec. 202. Pay comparability for the Chief Nursing Officer, Office of Nursing Services.
- Sec. 203. Improvement and expansion of mental health services.
- Sec. 204. Disclosure of medical records.
- Sec. 205. Expansion of telehealth services.
- Sec. 206. Strategic plan for long-term care.
- Sec. 207. Blind rehabilitation outpatient specialists.
- Sec. 208. Extension of certain compliance reports.
- Sec. 209. Parkinson's Disease research, education, and clinical centers and multiple sclerosis centers of excellence.
- Sec. 210. Repeal of term of office for the Under Secretary for Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits.

- Sec. 211. Modifications to State home authorities.
- Sec. 212. Office of Rural Health.
- Sec. 213. Outreach program to veterans in rural areas.
- Sec. 214. Pilot program on improvement of caregiver assistance services.
- Sec. 215. Expansion of outreach activities of Vet Centers.
- Sec. 216. Clarification and enhancement of bereavement counseling.
- Sec. 217. Funding for Vet Center program.

TITLE III—EDUCATION MATTERS

- Sec. 301. Expansion of eligibility for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program.
- Sec. 302. Restoration of lost entitlement for individuals who discontinue a program of education because of being ordered to full-time National Guard duty.
- Sec. 303. Exception for institutions offering Government-sponsored non-accredited courses to requirement of refunding unused tuition.
- Sec. 304. Extension of work-study allowance.
- Sec. 305. Deadline and extension of requirement for report on educational assistance program.
- Sec. 306. Report on improvement in administration of educational assistance benefits.
- Sec. 307. Technical amendments relating to education laws.

TITLE IV—NATIONAL CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS MATTERS

- Sec. 401. Provision of Government memorial headstones or markers and memorial inscriptions for deceased dependent children of veterans whose remains are unavailable for burial.
- Sec. 402. Provision of Government markers for marked graves of veterans at private cemeteries.
- Sec. 403. Eligibility of Indian tribal organizations for grants for the establishment of veterans cemeteries on trust lands.
- Sec. 404. Removal of remains of Russell Wayne Wagner from Arlington National Cemetery.

TITLE V—HOUSING AND SMALL BUSINESS MATTERS

- Sec. 501. Residential cooperative housing units.
- Sec. 502. Department of Veterans Affairs goals for participation by small businesses owned and controlled by veterans in procurement contracts.
- Sec. 503. Department of Veterans Affairs contracting priority for veteran-owned small businesses.

TITLE VI—EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING MATTERS

- Sec. 601. Training of new disabled veterans' outreach program specialists and local veterans' employment representatives by NVTI required.
- Sec. 602. Rules for part-time employment for disabled veterans' outreach program specialists and local veterans' employment representatives.
- Sec. 603. Performance incentive awards for employment service offices.
- Sec. 604. Demonstration project on credentialing and licensure of veterans.
- Sec. 605. Department of Labor implementation of regulations for priority of service.