

Bonamici Higgins  
 Brady (PA) Himes  
 Braley (IA) Hinojosa  
 Brown (FL) Holt  
 Brownley (CA) Honda  
 Bustos Horsford  
 Butterfield Hoyer  
 Capps Huffman  
 Capuano Israel  
 Carney Jackson Lee  
 Carson (IN) Jeffries  
 Cartwright Johnson (GA)  
 Castor (FL) Johnson, E. B.  
 Castro (TX) Kaptur  
 Chu Keating  
 Cicilline Kelly (IL)  
 Clarke Kennedy  
 Clay Kildee  
 Cleaver Kilmer  
 Clyburn Kind  
 Cohen Kirkpatrick  
 Connolly Kuster  
 Conyers Langevin  
 Cooper Sarbanes (WA)  
 Costa Larson (CT)  
 Courtney Lee (CA)  
 Crowley Levin  
 Cuellar Lewis  
 Cummings Lipinski  
 Davis (CA) Loeb sack  
 Davis, Danny Lofgren  
 DeFazio Lowenthal  
 DeGette Lowey  
 Delaney Lujan Grisham  
 DeLauro (NM)  
 DelBene Luján, Ben Ray  
 Deutch (NM)  
 Doggett Lynch  
 Doyle Maffei  
 Duckworth Maloney,  
 Edwards Carolyn  
 Ellison Maloney, Sean  
 Engel Matheson  
 Enyart Matsui  
 Eshoo McCollum  
 Esty McDermott  
 Farr McGovern  
 Fattah McIntyre  
 Foster McNeerney  
 Frankel (FL) Meeks  
 Fudge Meng  
 Gabbard Michaud  
 Gallego Miller, George  
 Garamendi Moore  
 Garcia Moran  
 Grayson Murphy (FL)  
 Green, Al Nadler  
 Green, Gene Napolitano  
 Grijalva Neal  
 Gutiérrez Nolan  
 Hahn O'Rourke  
 Hanabusa Owens  
 Hastings (FL) Pallone  
 Heck (WA) Pascrell

NOT VOTING—9

Bass  
 Cárdenas  
 Dingell

□ 1348

Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Messrs. BUTTERFIELD, HONDA, Ms. WILSON of Florida and Messrs. RUIZ and CARNEY changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. NUGENT, GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mrs. NOEM changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to table was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 515, I was unexpectedly detained and missed the rollcall vote No. 515 on the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 265, nays 160, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 516]

YEAS—265

Aderholt  
 Amash  
 Amodei  
 Bachmann  
 Bachus  
 Barber  
 Barletta  
 Barr  
 Barrow (GA)  
 Barton  
 Benishek  
 Bentivolio  
 Bera (CA)  
 Bilirakis  
 Harper  
 Harris  
 Hartzler  
 Hastings (WA)  
 Heck (NV)  
 Hensarling  
 Holding  
 Hudson  
 Bralery (IA)  
 Bridenstine  
 Brooks (AL)  
 Brooks (IN)  
 Broun (GA)  
 Buchanan  
 Buchon  
 Burgess  
 Bustos  
 Calvert  
 Camp  
 Campbell  
 Cantor  
 Capito  
 Carney  
 Carter  
 Cassidy  
 Castro (TX)  
 Chabot  
 Chaffetz  
 Coble  
 Coffman  
 Cole  
 Collins (GA)  
 Collins (NY)  
 Conaway  
 Cook  
 Cotton  
 Cramer  
 Crawford  
 Crenshaw  
 Culberson  
 Daines  
 Davis, Rodney  
 DeFazio  
 DelBene  
 Denham  
 Dent  
 DeSantis  
 DesJarlais  
 Diaz-Balart  
 Duffy  
 Duncan (SC)  
 Duncan (TN)  
 Ellmers  
 Farenthold  
 Fincher  
 Fitzpatrick  
 Fleischmann  
 Fleming  
 Flores  
 Forbes  
 Fortenberry  
 Foster  
 Foxx  
 Franks (AZ)  
 Frelinghuysen  
 Gallego  
 Garamendi  
 Garcia  
 Gardner  
 Garrett  
 Gerlach  
 Gibbs  
 Gibson  
 Gingrey (GA)

Wolf  
 Womack  
 Woodall

Yoder  
 Yoho  
 Young (AK)

Young (FL)  
 Young (IN)

NAYS—160

Andrews  
 Beatty  
 Becerra  
 Bishop (GA)  
 Blumenauer  
 Bonamici  
 Brady (PA)  
 Brown (FL)  
 Brownley (CA)  
 Butterfield  
 Capps  
 Capuano  
 Cárdenas  
 Carson (IN)  
 Cartwright  
 Castor (FL)  
 Chu  
 Cicilline  
 Clarke  
 Clay  
 Cleaver  
 Clyburn  
 Cohen  
 Connolly  
 Conyers  
 Cooper  
 Costa  
 Courtney  
 Crowley  
 Cuellar  
 Cummings  
 Davis (CA)  
 Davis, Danny  
 DeLauro  
 Deutch  
 Doggett  
 Doyle  
 Duckworth  
 Edwards  
 Ellison  
 Engel  
 Enyart  
 Eshoo  
 Esty  
 Farr  
 Fattah  
 Foster  
 Frankel (FL)  
 Fudge  
 Gabbard  
 Gallego  
 Garamendi  
 Garcia  
 Grayson  
 Green, Al  
 Green, Gene  
 Grijalva  
 Gutiérrez  
 Hahn  
 Hanabusa  
 Hastings (FL)  
 Heck (WA)

NOT VOTING—6

Bass  
 Herrera Beutler

□ 1357

So the bill was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS BENEFITS CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 370, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 72) making continuing appropriations for veterans benefits for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 370, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 72

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for veterans benefits for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Amounts are provided for entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013 (division E of Public Law 113-6), to continue activities at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2013, to be continued through the date specified in section 103(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 103, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2013 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 103(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 102. Amounts are provided for “Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” at a rate for operations of \$2,455,490,000: *Provided*, That such amount shall be made available subject to the authority and conditions as provided under the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013 (division E of Public Law 113-6) and shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by such Act.

SEC. 103. Unless otherwise provided for in this joint resolution or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2014, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this joint resolution shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this joint resolution; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2014 without any provision for such project or activity; or (3) December 15, 2013.

SEC. 104. It is the sense of Congress that this joint resolution may also be referred to as the “Honoring Our Promise to America’s Veterans Act”.

This joint resolution may be cited as the “Veterans Benefits Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 30 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on House Joint Resolution 72, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

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

We bring before the House today, Madam Speaker, legislation that will ensure that our veterans are given the benefits that they have earned and that there’s no delay in the processing of disability claims.

Madam Speaker, the other day, President Obama gave us a list of things that are important and vital that the Nation do to make sure that there is no interruption in services. In particular, we as a Congress, as a House want to make sure that our veterans are taken care of. Everything they have earned through their service to their country, we want to make certain it is taken care of.

This legislation before us today is essential because the VA has told us that funds for these benefits will run out by the end of this month. So it’s essential we pass this legislation right now.

Although the Veterans Health Administration is funded a year in advance, we have to pass this legislation today, Madam Speaker, to ensure that veterans and their survivors receive disability compensation benefits.

We have to pass this legislation today to make sure that 517,000 low-income veterans and their family members receive their pensions. We have to pass this legislation today unanimously so that three-quarters of a million students will receive their post-9/11 GI education benefits. We need to pass this legislation today, Madam Speaker, so that 54,000 unemployed veterans will be able to be eligible for training assistance through the veterans retraining assistance program.

Finally, Madam Speaker, we also have to make sure we get this legislation passed so that 67,000 veterans with service-connected disabilities receive their vocational rehabilitation and employment subsistence allowances.

It’s also important to note that this legislation will provide \$223 million for cemetery headstones and burial plot allowances that our veterans by their service to our Nation have earned.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Here we are again, déjà vu all over again. The leadership of the other side of the aisle is again attempting to distract the American people from looking at their cynical shutdown efforts by trying to hold them under the torn and shredded garments of our veterans. This is a hoax. This is a fraud.

Simply stated, this bill will not provide enough funding to pay for all the programs, where every Member of this House understands that veterans benefits are vital and crucial pieces of our ongoing obligation and commitment to our veterans.

However, we should all be clear and we should understand that in accepting this piecemeal proposal, we are in fact

cutting \$6.2 billion in funding that this body voted in June, in the bill that we approved 421-4.

This proposed CR does not address, touch, or do anything for the remaining VA discretionary accounts, which are equally important to our veterans and our families:

The Information Technology account, which includes \$155 million for the Veterans Benefits Management System and is vital in speeding up the claims process, is not included;

The Office of the Secretary account, which includes the Board of Veterans Appeals which provides decisions on claims appeals, is not included;

The National Cemetery Administration is not included, which means that burials, Madam Speaker, at the national cemeteries will be conducted on a reduced schedule;

The Office of Inspector General account is not included, which means that audits and evaluations, administrative investigations, health care inspections, and the Inspector General hotline will be suspended;

The medical research account is not included;

The construction accounts are not included;

Grants to State veterans home and State cemeteries are not included.

On June 4 we passed a full bill, a complete bill, a bipartisan bill. We provided more resources for veterans in the bipartisan bill we passed in June than are provided in this anemic attempt to hide the cynical Republican efforts to justify a government shutdown underneath the veil of the service and sacrifice of generation after generation of veterans.

This is shameful. Veterans can see through this hypocrisy. The American people can see through this hypocrisy.

We need to end this lifeboat strategy offered by the Senator from Texas, where the only visible functions of government he approves or sanctions will be opened.

Open the entire government. Serve the American people by passing a clean resolution discharging our constitutional responsibilities and voting down this phantom of a funding bill that does a disservice to our Nation’s heroes—our veterans.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege at this time to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding this time and thank you for bringing up this bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill.

This bill continues to provide our Nation’s veterans with access to important benefits that they have earned in service to their country. To let these important health benefits slow or stop would be to renege on our promise to

our soldiers that, in exchange for taking care of this country, the Nation will take care of you.

This legislation continues funding for the processing and delivering of disability claims and other health benefits at the current annual rate of approximately \$82 billion until December 15, or until we enact full-year appropriations.

Yesterday, when we considered this bill on the floor under suspension, Republicans and Democrats alike united behind the duty of this Congress to provide for our veterans. Frankly, I'm surprised it didn't pass with the vote of every single Member, but some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle chose not to support the care of our former servicemen and -women.

But I believe that, given this second chance, where a majority will do, my colleagues will come together to pass this important bill. Not only is it important for the well-being of our veterans, but it's important for the well-being of the Nation as a whole. Every step we take to fund one section of the government is a step we can take toward reopening the entire government.

Even if we do not agree on much, we can agree, Madam Speaker, that we can't allow this government shutdown to persist much longer and continue to inflict harm on the United States. The clearest path forward is coming together on a bipartisan and bicameral basis to work out our differences, find a solution, and end this shutdown. And the way to do this is laying right in front of us.

The House passed the other night a motion to go to conference with the Senate on the differences that we have between us. It is the old, time-honored tradition of the House and Senate having a conference together to work out differences that is the way this place should be working; and yet the Senate refuses to sit down with us.

Madam Speaker, our conferees are waiting at the table downstairs, even as I speak. And if the Senate would just send over their conferees, we can work out the differences and the shutdown and solve the rest of the Nation's problems.

I urge my colleagues to provide for our veterans and help us get out of this shutdown disaster. Vote "aye" on this bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, at this time I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), ranking member of the full Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, of course we support funding for our veterans. The House already passed a full-year funding bill in June by a vote of 421-4, which was \$6 billion more than the cheap ploy now being considered.

It is essential that the VA can continue offering services, but we must also ensure that veterans receive job training, children receive immunizations, and that our food supply is safe.

Radical Republicans have shut down the government because they refuse to

allow a vote on a spending bill that they wrote, the Senate passed, and the White House would sign.

Three days into the shut down, the majority can't even tell us what they want to reopen the government. Just yesterday, one of their Members said:

We have to get something out of this. And I don't even know what that is.

The House majority has shut down the government, but not to reduce spending or for some other policy reason. It is for pure petulance, and they don't even know what they're trying to accomplish.

□ 1415

Ending the shutdown couldn't be more simple. Stop playing games. Allow a vote on the bill—with your number—to end the shutdown that the Senate passed and the President will sign.

This could end in 30 minutes. Just take the bill with your number, let it pass here, send it to the White House, and that's the end; and we can get on with business to serve the people that we were elected to help.

My constituents want us to work on these serious issues, as do you.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, the only question before the House tonight is: Will we unite to support our veterans?

I am pleased, at this time, to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER), the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise for the second time this week to talk about this particular piece of legislation. Why the second time? Well, because the Democrats banded together to kill this veterans funding bill once before. And as I mentioned before the Democrats moved to kill this veterans funding bill, we worked to ensure that disabled veterans, low-income veterans going to school on the GI Bill, and survivors of those killed in the line of duty continue to receive their benefits that they are due, the benefits that they in fact have earned.

Madam Speaker, the House Democrats must not know that BERNIE SANDERS, the chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, introduced a bill on Monday night that related to veterans funding, and I'd like to share with everyone a bit about that effort. And I quote from press reports:

Veterans Affairs' Chairman Bernard Sanders introduced the legislation (S. 1564) Monday night and quickly got the backing from four other Democrats on the panel, as well as Richard M. Burr of North Carolina, the top Republican on the committee . . . Specifically, the bill would protect mandatory compensation and pension benefits for veterans and families, including survivor benefits. It would also, among other things, continue money flowing to educational programs for veterans . . . The bill, he predicted, would be passed in enough time to ensure veterans benefits are not disrupted. Burr said he expects the Senate to adopt the legislation by unanimous consent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Does this sound familiar? It should. Because this is the very piece of legislation that we're talking about on the floor today. And I have a suspicion why the Democrats keep stalling this veteran funding bill—they are playing politics.

I ask the Senate majority leader and my friends in the Democratic leadership to unite. Take up the bill that the ranking member has already said that fully funds veterans on June 4.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, before I state my unanimous consent request—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for a unanimous consent request only.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. TAKANO. Parliamentary inquiry, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, what do the House Republicans want to end this shutdown, because—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has been recognized only for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the clean CR, and go to conference on a budget so that we can end this Republican government shutdown that is slowing our economic growth by .3 percent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the clean CR, and go to conference on a budget so that we end this Republican government shutdown that is undermining our national security by leaving more than 70 percent of the CIA furloughed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

As the Chair previously advised, the request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BARBER) for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. BARBER. Madam Speaker, our servicemembers and our veterans have done their duty and they have stood steadfast in defense of our Nation. They deserve more than our thanks—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend. The gentleman is not recognized. The gentleman will suspend.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) for a unanimous consent request.

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the clean CR, and go to conference on a budget so that we can end this Republican government shutdown that is undermining public health by preventing the CDC from working on its annual flu vaccine or detecting disease outbreaks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman will suspend. The gentleman is not recognized.

As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, at this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE).

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

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#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

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□ 1530

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

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#### VETERANS BENEFITS CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will advise Members of the remaining time in debate. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) has 9 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) has 10 minutes remaining.

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

I want to first say that today we've had a reminder again of how much we owe our men and women in uniform. And I want to express the gratitude of the Members of the House, the people of America to our men and women in uniform who keep our streets safe every day, and say that our hearts and our prayers are with those injured officers today, and to express our immense

gratitude to each and every one of them all over the country and to our men and women in uniform around the world who make it possible for us to be here today in the greatest deliberative democracy ever created in the history of humanity. We owe it all to our men and women in uniform.

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OFFICERS INJURED TODAY

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I ask for a moment of silent prayer for those officers who have been injured today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will all Members rise for a moment of silent prayer.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, we are here today to work arm-in-arm in support of our men and women in uniform. I'm pleased at this time to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE).

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, as a former mayor, I associate my remarks with the chairman.

I rise in strong support of the legislation on the floor today. What we have before us today is an opportunity to keep the faith with America's veterans, of which I am one, and ensuring the funding for disability payments, for the GI bill, which I used, education training, and VA home loans.

No matter what your thoughts on the current impasse, we owe our veterans this much. This should not be, must not become a partisan issue. There are real and serious debates to be had about how we're able to deal with ObamaCare and our Nation's debt crisis, but that's not what we're discussing now.

Northeast Tennessee, which I'm honored to represent in this body, has a long history of military service and hosts Mountain Home VA Medical Center, one of the largest and finest such facilities in the country. When I visit them, I don't see Republicans or Democrats; I see patriots who answered the call, did their duty, and then came home to make a life.

Let's make sure they all get the support they need. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, at this time I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), the ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I have the privilege of representing one of the most military-friendly and veteran-friendly areas of the country, North Carolina. So I'm glad our Republican colleagues are concerned with maintaining funding for our Nation's veterans.

But it's too bad they didn't think a little more about the VA before forcing this government shutdown on us Monday night. And now it's too bad they're not showing equal concern for the more than half a million veterans who now

serve their country as Federal employees, many of whom have been sent home on furlough and now have bills piling up, or the veteran small business owners whose SBA loans are on hold, or the veteran parents whose kids have been turned away from Head Start, or the veterans earning their graduate degrees whose research labs have been closed.

Madam Speaker, of course we need to restore full funding for the VA so it can resume its full array of services to our Nation's veterans, to whom we owe a special debt of gratitude and support.

But veterans want the same thing all Americans want: for us to reopen the entire government so they can get on with their lives as parents and workers and members of their communities.

You don't have to take my word for it. In a letter sent this morning to the bipartisan congressional leadership, the heads of several major Veterans Service Organizations write, and I quote:

Our organizations and the veterans we represent will no longer tolerate Congress leveraging veterans' health and well-being to achieve unrelated political ends.

Or, in the succinct words of the spokesman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, "The VA needs to be fully funded, not piecemealed and not used as leverage."

So let's dispense with this political theater and this piecemeal approach that fails to end the shutdown. The Senate has approved a clean funding bill that will pass this House easily this very afternoon if the Speaker will simply let it be voted on.

It's time to get on with this business that the American people elected us to do.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, at this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the emerging pattern of poor decisionmaking coming from the Obama administration on national security.

Under sequestration, this White House mandated that civilian defense workers be furloughed, even when agencies had the money to pay these employees, many of whom are veterans. And today, under this partial government shutdown, the White House has again chosen to furlough the vast majority of these same workers, against the express will and intent of Congress.

Earlier this week, all of us here in Congress passed a bipartisan bill, which the President signed, to expressly protect the pay of Active Duty military, civilian defense employees, and designated defense contractors. The Pentagon can put these workers back on the job today, but the White House is choosing to furlough our critical civilian defense workers.

The Obama administration is also eroding our national security by choosing to furlough 70 percent of the civilian employees at our intelligence agencies. This is unnecessary.