

H.R. 4261, the Gulf War Health Research Reform Act of 2014, which I sponsored along with Ranking Member KIRKPATRICK and full committee Ranking Member MICHAUD, restores the independence of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses to perform the role it has historically played, as intended by Congress, to improve the lives of ill gulf war veterans.

This bill is necessary because some career VA staff have been trying to revive the discredited 1990s fiction that nothing special happened to gulf war veterans' health and that the problems experienced by gulf war veterans are just "what happens after every war" due to psychological stress factors.

Because there is no scientific evidence for this position, VA staffers have resorted to manipulating research studies and reports to try and revive this discredited theory. A major new VA gulf war veteran survey, for example, included the questions necessary to identify PTSD but not Gulf War illness.

Most shockingly, VA has even manipulated new research of the Institute of Medicine by limiting the terms of its contracts. VA transformed the Institute of Medicine gulf war treatments study ordered by Congress into a report based largely on psychotherapies. The Research Advisory Committee objected strongly to these actions, which threatened to mislead treatment research just as science is finally turning the corner. VA retaliated by eliminating the independence of the committee, changing its charter to remove its authority to review the effectiveness of government research programs, and replacing the members serving on the committee. The effect of these changes can already be seen.

The section of the new 2014 Research Advisory Committee report that detailed VA's manipulations of research had to be removed because the committee's authority to review the effectiveness of VA's research programs had been eliminated.

The independent voice, so critical to honest research, will be all but replaced by September with those who seem to bend to VA's will.

H.R. 4261 will restore the authority of the committee and provide that its membership, instead of being appointed entirely by VA, will consist of nine members appointed by the chairs and ranking members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and three members chosen by VA. This arrangement follows the longstanding model of the bipartisan Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance at the Department of Education.

Current law provides that the Research Advisory Committee membership may include veterans, representatives of veterans, and the general public. While there are those who seek to limit veteran members to ill veterans, excluding most veterans service orga-

nization representatives and others, the Research Advisory Committee has been well-served by having both ill and other veterans serve on the committee.

It is important to remember that the unwillingness of the VA to honestly address this illness is the reason Congress created the Research Advisory Committee in the first place. The 1997 congressional report that led to that legislation was entitled, "Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses: VA, DOD Continue to Resist Strong Evidence Linking Toxic Causes to Chronic Health Effects."

Science has made great progress since then, thanks in no small measure to the work of the Research Advisory Committee, as well as to the effective Gulf War Illness Research Program that Congress created at the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. But this progress is all at risk if VA is able to again mislead science down blind alleys, directing scarce research dollars at the wrong target, as so often happened in the 1990s and 2000s.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I yield the gentleman an additional 1½ minutes.

Mr. COFFMAN. I thank the chairman.

It is also important to ask why the VA has pursued this course. Last month, we learned the answer. On April 22, 2014, Military Times reported that the VA Under Secretary for Benefits, Allison Hickey, objected even to using the term "Gulf War illness" because it "might imply a casual link between service in the gulf and poor health which could necessitate . . . disability compensation for veterans who served in the gulf."

Even if this policy was morally justifiable and saving money was the only goal, it is wrong. It will cost the Federal Government far less in the long run to face this problem honestly and pursue effective treatments, rather than to deny benefits and provide misleading research.

We have strong support for this legislation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Veterans, or AMVETS, and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Without an independent Research Advisory Committee, the slow but steady progress toward identifying treatments for Gulf War illness will most surely end.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to acknowledge the work of Mr. Jim Binns of Arizona, who has made countless trips back here advocating for this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support it. We really need to do right by our gulf war veterans.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 4261, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4261.

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 6 o'clock and 8 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. TERRY) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 599, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 503, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

URGING CHINA TO RESPECT THE FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, EXPRESSION, AND RELIGION AND ALL FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 599) urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the freedom of assembly, expression, and religion and all fundamental human rights and the rule of law for all its citizens and to stop censoring discussion of the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations and their violent suppression, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 379, nays 1, not voting 51, as follows:

[Roll No. 241]

YEAS—379

Aderholt	Amodei	Bachus
Amash	Bachmann	Barber

Barletta Farenthold
 Barr Farr
 Barrow (GA) Fattah
 Barton Fincher
 Bass Fitzpatrick
 Becerra Fleischmann
 Benishek Fleming
 Bentivolio Flores
 Bera (CA) Forbes
 Bilirakis Foxx
 Bishop (GA) Frankel (FL)
 Bishop (NY) Franks (AZ)
 Bishop (UT) Frelinghuysen
 Black Gabbard
 Blackburn Gallego
 Blumenauer Garamendi
 Bonamici Garcia
 Boustany Gardner
 Brady (PA) Garrett
 Bridenstine Gerlach
 Brooks (AL) Gibson
 Brooks (IN) Gingrey (GA)
 Broun (GA) Gohmert
 Brown (FL) Goodlatte
 Brownley (CA) Gosar
 Buchanan Gowdy
 Bucshon Granger
 Burgess Graves (GA)
 Bustos Graves (MO)
 Butterfield Grayson
 Byrne Green, Al
 Calvert Green, Gene
 Camp Griffith (VA)
 Cantor Grijalva
 Capps Grimm
 Capuano Guthrie
 Cárdenas Gutiérrez
 Carney Hahn
 Carson (IN) Hall
 Carter Hanabusa
 Cartwright Harper
 Cassidy Harris
 Castor (FL) Hastings (WA)
 Castro (TX) Heck (NV)
 Chabot Heck (WA)
 Chaffetz Hensarling
 Chu Herrera Beutler
 Cicilline Higgins
 Clark (MA) Himes
 Clarke (NY) Holding
 Clay Holt
 Cleaver Horsford
 Clyburn Hoyer
 Coble Hudson
 Coffman Huelskamp
 Cohen Huffman
 Cole Huizenga (MI)
 Collins (GA) Hunter
 Collins (NY) Hurt
 Conaway Israel
 Connolly Issa
 Conyers Jackson Lee
 Cook Jeffries
 Cooper Jenkins
 Costa Johnson (GA)
 Cotton Johnson (OH)
 Courtney Johnson, E. B.
 Cramer Jolly
 Crawford Joyce
 Crenshaw Kaptur
 Crowley Keating
 Cuellar Kelly (IL)
 Culberson Kelly (PA)
 Cummings Kennedy
 Daines Kildee
 Davis (CA) Kilmer
 Davis, Rodney King (IA)
 DeFazio King (NY)
 DeGette Kingston
 Delaney Kinzinger (IL)
 DeLauro Kirkpatrick
 DelBene Kline
 Denham Kuster
 Dent Labrador
 DeSantis LaMalfa
 DesJarlais Lamborn
 Deutch Lance
 Diaz-Balart Langevin
 Doggett Larsen (WA)
 Doyle Larson (CT)
 Duffy Latham
 Duncan (SC) Latta
 Duncan (TN) Lee (CA)
 Edwards Levin
 Ellison Lewis
 Ellmers Lipinski
 Engel LoBiondo
 Enyart Lofgren
 Eshoo Long

Lowenthal Royce
 Lowey Ruiz
 Lucas Runyan
 Luetkemeyer Ruppersberger
 Lujan Grisham Ryan (OH)
 (NM) Ryan (WI)
 Luján, Ben Ray Sánchez, Linda
 (NM) T.
 Flores Sanford
 Lummis Sarbanes
 Lynch Swallow (CA)
 Maffei Scalise
 Maloney, Schiff
 Carolyn Schneider
 Maloney, Sean Schock
 Marchant Schrader
 Marino Schwartz
 Massie Schweikert
 Matheson Scott (VA)
 Matsui Scott, Austin
 McAllister Scott, David
 McCarthy (CA) Sensenbrenner
 McCauley Serrano
 McClintock Sessions
 McCollum Shea-Porter
 McDermott Sherman
 McGovern Shimkus
 McHenry Simpson
 McKinley Sinema
 McMorris

McNerney
 Rodgers
 Meadows
 Meehan
 Meeks
 Meng
 Messer
 Mica
 Michaud
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller, George
 Moore
 Moran
 Mullin
 Murphy (FL)
 Murphy (PA)
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Negrete McLeod
 Neugebauer
 Noem
 Nolan
 Nugent
 Nunes
 Nunnellee
 O'Rourke
 Olson
 Owens
 Pallone
 Pascarell
 Pastor (AZ)
 Paulsen
 Payne
 Pelosi
 Perlmutter
 Perry
 Peters (CA)
 Peterson
 Petri
 Pingree (ME)
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Pocan
 Poe (TX)
 Polis
 Pompeo
 Posey
 Price (GA)
 Price (NC)
 Rahall
 Rangel
 Reed
 Reichert
 Ribble
 Rice (SC)
 Richmond
 Rigell
 Roby
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Roybal-Allard

Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walorski
 Walz
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waxman
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Welch
 Wenstrup
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield
 Williams
 Wilson (FL)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Wolf
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yarmuth
 Yoder
 Yoho
 Young (AK)
 Young (IN)

NAYS—1

Jones
 NOT VOTING—51

Beatty
 Brady (TX)
 Braley (IA)
 Campbell
 Capito
 Davis, Danny
 Dingell
 Duckworth
 Esty
 Fortenberry
 Foster
 Fudge
 Gibbs
 Griffin (AR)
 Hanna
 Hartzler
 Neal
 Hastings (FL)
 Hinojosa
 Honda
 Hultgren
 Johnson, Sam
 Jordan
 Kind
 Lankford
 Loebsack
 McCarthy (NY)
 McIntyre
 McKeon
 Miller, Gary
 Mulvaney
 Palazzo
 Pearce
 Peters (MI)
 Quigley
 Renacci
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Rush
 Salmon
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Schakowsky
 Sewell (AL)
 Shuster
 Slaughter
 Smith (WA)
 Speier
 Stivers
 Thompson (MS)
 Tiberi
 Turner
 Waters

□ 1857

Mr. BECERRA changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA, TRAGEDY

(Mrs. CAPPs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with a heavy heart. On Friday night, my home community was rocked by unspeakable violence, which left six students and their assailant dead and 13 others injured. The rampage shook the communities of Isla Vista and the University of California in Santa Barbara, Californians, and the Nation.

Last night, I joined with my community at UCSB and in Isla Vista to honor those we lost. Together, we have taken the first steps towards making sense of the senseless. It will be a long journey. We have many questions, and over the weeks and months ahead perhaps more will be posed than we can answer. But we will work through it together.

While we all struggle to make sense of this tragedy, I want to thank you,

my colleagues, and communities across the Nation for your prayers, your kind words, and your support. This act was fueled by hate, but in the wake of this tragedy, we as a Nation have shown that in a dark time we do not walk alone, we do not grieve alone, so we will not have to heal alone.

Today, we remember the victims: George Chen; “James” Chung You-on Hong; Way-han “David” Wang; Katherine Breann Cooper; Christopher Ross Michaels-Martinez; and Veronika Weiss.

We send our deepest sympathies to their families and to their friends. We lend support to the injured. We pledge to stand with the Santa Barbara community, and all those touched by violence, to do all we can to prevent this sort of tragedy in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to ask that the House observe a moment of silence for the victims, for their families, their friends, the UC-Santa Barbara community, and all who mourn in the wake of this senseless tragedy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will please rise for a moment of silence.

NATIONAL DESERT STORM AND DESERT SHIELD WAR MEMORIAL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 503) to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 370, nays 0, not voting 61, as follows:

[Roll No. 242]

YEAS—370

Aderholt	Black	Camp
Amash	Blackburn	Cantor
Amodei	Blumenauer	Capps
Bachmann	Bonamici	Capuano
Bachus	Boustany	Cárdenas
Barber	Brady (PA)	Carney
Barletta	Bridenstine	Carson (IN)
Barr	Brooks (AL)	Carter
Barrow (GA)	Brooks (IN)	Cartwright
Barton	Broun (GA)	Cassidy
Bass	Brown (FL)	Castor (FL)
Becerra	Brownley (CA)	Castro (TX)
Benishek	Buchanan	Chabot
Bentivolio	Bucshon	Chaffetz
Bera (CA)	Burgess	Chu
Bilirakis	Bustos	Cicilline
Bishop (GA)	Butterfield	Clark (MA)
Bishop (NY)	Byrne	Clarke (NY)
Bishop (UT)	Calvert	Clay