

bill have worked with the administration in drafting this legislation.

In examining ways to better use administrative data, it is critical to ensure that the privacy of individuals continues to be protected. That is why the members of this commission would be required to have expertise not only in economics and statistics, but also in data security and confidentiality.

This bill is supported by a wide range of private sector organizations, from The Heritage Foundation to the Urban Institute.

I believe an evidence-based policy-making commission would help us improve the way the Federal Government works. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to highlight the President's budget, on page 65, where it says: "The Budget also embraces Representative PAUL RYAN and Senator PATTY MURRAY's proposal to create a commission that would make recommendations about how to fully realize the potential of administrative data to improve Federal programs. The proposal exemplifies the high-level and bipartisan momentum for doing more to tap this important resource."

It is important that we come together. In this case, I want to thank members on both sides of the aisle, there in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

I am somewhat resistant to creating another commission or board; it seems like we have an awful lot of these, but here, we see some good thinking in a bipartisan way with some support from not only the House of Representatives and the United States Senate, but also the President of the United States.

I see fit to pass this out of our committee. It sailed through, and I believe that it is a good bill and would urge our Members to vote "aye" in favor of this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to state that being a Member of Congress, a freshman, that it is refreshing to be able to stand here today on a bipartisan bill and be supportive.

I do want the RECORD to reflect that the bill would require the President and four congressional leaders to each appoint three commission members. One of the President's appointees will be the Director of the Office of Management and Budget or a designee.

Some members would have to have experience as academic researchers, data experts, or program administrators. Other members would be required to have experience with database management confidentiality and privacy matters. Individuals with expertise in economics, statistics, program, and evaluation will also be considered.

It is important that we understand that there are currently so many of our

agencies that are collecting data and that now we have understood and in the spirit of being efficient and being progressive in our government, that this commission will satisfy that.

I am very much in support of this and urge my colleagues, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Again, I appreciate the gentleman's comments and agree that this is a place where we can come together and work together.

This 15-member commission would be directed to determine the best structure for information that is collected and maintained by Federal agencies.

One of the things that we will all have to be cognizant about is not only making this information available to congressional researchers and people at the GAO or OMB, but also making sure that the public has access to this information for they are, ultimately, the ones that have paid for it, and they should be able to consume it.

In this data-driven age, we should be able to find new methods, whether it is some new app or some other new way to collectively bring this information and have that information that is then passed on and accessible by the public.

I also look forward to Congress receiving the recommendations and would highlight one of the things that I think is good about the structure of this bill is that it expires 18 months after its enactment, so there is a built-in exit here. This does not continue on in perpetuity. It is something that has an expiration date, which we should probably look at on a more frequent basis.

Again, I would urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1831.

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a few words about what we're trying to do here.

We're trying to change the mindset in Washington.

Right now, when we're making policy, we focus on inputs . . . on effort—like how much money we're spending, how many people we're serving, how many programs we're creating.

What we need to do is focus on outcomes . . . on results—like how many people we're getting out of poverty.

Creating this commission is the first step in a long-term effort.

We're going to bring together the best minds on data collection and figure out how we can up our game.

Let's use the data we're already collecting to improve how government works.

How can we use data to evaluate policy?

How can we protect people's privacy?

How can we get the best results for the American people?

If we do this right, we'll stop having debates over what's Republican and what's Democrat . . . or what's liberal and conservative . . .

And we'll start having debates over what works and what doesn't work.

Those are the kinds of debates we need to have. So I urge all my colleagues to support his bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1831, 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.

□ 1530

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 61) amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 61

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This joint resolution may be cited as the "Hire More Heroes Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. EMPLOYEES WITH HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING EMPLOYERS TO WHICH THE EMPLOYER MANDATE APPLIES UNDER PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(F) EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.—Solely for purposes of determining whether an employer is an applicable large employer under this paragraph for any month, an individual shall not be taken into account as an employee for such month if such individual has medical coverage for such month under—

"(i) chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, including coverage under the TRICARE program, or

"(ii) under a health care program under chapter 17 or 18 of title 38, United States Code, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 3. BUDGETARY EFFECTS; STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO (PAYGO) SCORECARDS.

The budgetary effects of this joint resolution shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 61 currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), the author of this legislation, for the purposes of explaining what it does.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of my bill, the Hire More Heroes Act.

This commonsense legislation will help small businesses hire more of our veterans by exempting veterans who are already receiving health care through the DOD or the VA from being counted towards the 50-employee limit for the employer mandate under the Affordable Care Act.

On opening day, the House passed H.R. 22, the Hire More Heroes Act, by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 412-0.

I especially want to thank my colleague from Hawaii, TULSI GABBARD, for working together on this issue. And I also want to take this time, Mr. Speaker, to thank Chairman PAUL RYAN and his entire Ways and Means Committee for ensuring that this very important issue is addressed in this Congress.

In order to maximize the chances for this important legislation to be implemented into law this session, we are again considering the Hire More Heroes Act, which I reintroduced last week as H.J. Res. 61.

H.J. Res. 61 is an example of how Washington is supposed to work. I say this because this idea didn't come from Washington. It came from a member of my Veterans Advisory Board in Madison County, Illinois.

After explaining ObamaCare to veterans throughout southwestern Illinois and how it impacts their VA benefits, this advisory board member, Brad Lavite, began wondering why they were subject to the employer mandate if they were not even in need of health insurance coverage.

His concern was raised with me at one of my Veterans Advisory Board meetings, and shortly thereafter we began work on this Hire More Heroes Act.

This bill will help small businesses, those with less than 50 employees, hire more of our Nation's veterans by making a commonsense change to ObamaCare.

We continue to see this law's lingering impact on our economy, as many small businesses delay hiring, cut hours and, in some cases, reduce payroll.

In fact, the National Small Business Association found that 91 percent of small businesses have seen increases in their healthcare costs, and two-thirds of their members listed the Affordable Care Act as a reason for holding off on investing in people.

Mr. Speaker, when a small business invests in people, that is how America creates jobs.

In my home State of Illinois, it is estimated this year that Affordable Care Act premium increases will rise as much as 30 percent.

By making this commonsense change to the law, we will not only help provide small businesses much-needed relief, but also—the main goal—help veterans, our heroes, find more work.

Despite receiving some of the best training in the world, post-9/11 veterans are consistently faced with higher unemployment rates than that of other veterans.

So as more and more of our veterans return home, the Hire More Heroes Act will give these veterans a boost in this very competitive job market.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this bill passed earlier this year 412-0. I am asking all of my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan policy that will help American businesses hire more of our heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank Chairman RYAN.

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

I rise in active support of this bill. It encourages veteran employment as well as the growth of mid-sized businesses.

The unemployment rate for veterans of recent times has gone down, but it still remains too high. That is especially true for those women who have served in our armed services.

As I talk to veterans at home, the challenge they face continues in terms of employment. In Macomb County, for example, there is a particularly active part of the Vietnam veterans.

That post works day and night to try to get employment for their membership, but there remains a major challenge. This bill will help.

This bill continues to be part of our national commitment to help the veterans who have served this Nation and who deserve the chance as they return to find full-time employment.

So let's all of us, as we did before, vote unanimously for this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I, too, want to echo the sentiment here, which is this is just a no-brainer. What I particularly like about this bill is this is just the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) doing his job as a Member of Congress, getting a very constructive idea from a constituent veteran who pointed out a flaw in the law so he went and spoke to his Member of Congress.

His Member of Congress looked at the law, saw that it needed to be

changed, and here we are making this change.

This is democracy. This is how this Republic is supposed to work. So I am very pleased to see that we are here doing this on a bipartisan basis.

I was, unfortunately, unavoidably detained for the last bill. I wanted to make just a couple of points on the last suspension that just passed that the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) brought to the floor, H.R. 1831, Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission Act of 2015.

Right now we spend so much of our time here in Congress and in the Federal Government focusing on measuring success of our policies based on measuring inputs, not outcomes, how many programs are we creating, how much money are we spending, not are these programs working or not.

So we have bipartisan legislation that just passed to create a commission to take a look at the data that we already collect and see if we can give access to academics and use this data more effectively so we can better measure outcomes of our policies.

We want to make sure that we can use our data to evaluate better policy. We want to make sure that we do it in a way that ensures people's privacy.

But we want to move the kind of debate we have been having here from liberal versus conservative or Republican versus Democrat to what works and what doesn't work.

Nowhere is this more crucial than in our efforts to fight poverty, to try to make a difference, to move people from being dependent, from being stuck in poverty, from being frozen in their current station of life, to reigniting the notion of upward mobility and more successfully targeting and going at the root cause of poverty so that we can actually have programs that are measured based on success and outcomes, which is, are we actually getting people out of poverty.

The purpose of the bill that just passed is to reorient our entire way of looking at things so that we can focus on these outcomes. So I just wanted to lend my statement on that.

I want to congratulate the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for bringing this issue with our veterans to our attention. I urge adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. I thank the chairman. And I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to come to the floor today again as a supporter of the Hire More Heroes Act. This bill is as commonsense as they come. It exempts our heroes, those veterans and Active-Duty military from counting towards the President's employer mandate penalty tax.

These veterans and Active-Duty military already receive health insurance

through the VA and TRICARE. So requiring these employers to provide them with health insurance is redundant and could also have the unintended effect of discouraging employers from hiring these folks.

This part of the President's healthcare law is clearly not drafted in a thoughtful manner.

I urge my colleagues again today to vote in favor of this bill that would eliminate the unnecessary confusion and encourage businesses to hire more heroes.

Finally, I urge the Senate to pass this legislation so that it can finally get to the President's desk.

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for the purpose of closing.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. I again thank the chairman.

Thank you to Ranking Member LEVIN and all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for looking at this very important issue, this correction that needed to be made so that our veterans get the opportunities they deserve.

I would like to thank my colleague from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) for coming to the floor today to talk about how important this issue is.

I urge all of my colleagues to listen to everybody on the floor today and the bipartisan consensus to, once again, pass this commonsense piece of legislation.

I also want to thank the veterans that I have the honor to serve in Illinois. This idea came from one of them, a constituent who saw the flaw.

Now we have the chance to, once again, correct it. I hope this bill can get to the President's desk.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 61.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1545

NEED-BASED EDUCATIONAL AID ACT OF 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1482) to improve and reauthorize provisions relating to the application of the antitrust laws to the award of need-based educational aid.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1482

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 "Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION RELATING TO THE APPLICATION OF THE ANTRITRUST LAWS TO THE AWARD OF NEED-BASED EDUCATIONAL AID.

Section 568 of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (15 U.S.C. 1 note) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (a)—
 - (A) in paragraph (2), by inserting "or" after the semicolon;
 - (B) in paragraph (3), by striking "; or" and inserting a period at the end; and
 - (C) by striking paragraph (4); and
- (2) in subsection (d), by striking "2015" and inserting "2022".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. 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 materials on the bill currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

S. 1482, the Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2015, continues an antitrust exemption that is set to expire on September 30, 2015. The exemption allows participating colleges and universities to collaborate on a set of criteria to determine applicants' needs for private financial aid.

To be clear, this exemption does not apply to Federal financial aid, only to aid directly provided by the participating colleges and universities.

The Antitrust Modernization Commission generally cautioned against antitrust exemptions and recommended that Congress closely examine any proposed antitrust immunities.

The antitrust exemption continued by S. 1482 has been in place since 1992. Over the past 23 years, Congress has extended the antitrust exemption on four separate occasions, each time with broad, bipartisan support.

Additionally, the Government Accountability Office conducted a study to determine whether the exemption adversely impacted the affordability of college and concluded that it did not.

While S. 1482 continues the existing antitrust exemption, it also narrows it in recognition of the fact that one of the practices allowed by that exemption has not been utilized by participating colleges and universities. Accordingly, the legislation limits the scope of antitrust exemption to those activities that colleges and universities truly need and use.

Given the lengthy legislative record, the narrowed scope of the exemption, the GAO study on the effects of the

bill, and the 7-year sunset included in the bill, I believe that S. 1482 proposes a safe extension of a reasonable and worthwhile antitrust exemption.

I thank the former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Congressman SMITH, for introducing the House version of this legislation, H.R. 2604, which the Judiciary Committee ordered favorably reported without amendment.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 1482, the Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2015, would extend an exemption to the Federal antitrust laws that permits some of our Nation's most prestigious colleges and universities to agree to admit students on a need-blind basis and award financial aid to students with the most demonstrated need.

I am pleased to serve as the lead Democratic cosponsor of the House companion to this bipartisan legislation. S. 1482 allows colleges and universities that admit students on a need-blind basis to collaborate on the formula they use to determine how much families can pay for college.

This exemption was first enacted in 1992, and since then, Congress has reauthorized it four times without opposition, most recently in 2008.

In addition to allowing collaboration on a common formula for calculating an applicant's ability to pay for college, the exemption also allows academic institutions to agree to award aid only on the basis of financial need.

In other words, this exemption ensures that the most qualified students may attend some of our Nation's most prestigious schools, regardless of family income. This is especially important for low-income students, who should not be forced to choose between academic institutions on the basis of financial need or financial aid alone.

While I think we could do more to empower students through better funding of higher education, this legislation is critical to preserving a level playing field for students at these institutions through a need-blind admissions process.

The 568 Presidents' Group, a coalition of 23 prestigious colleges and universities that support need-based financial aid, strongly supports this bill.

In a letter sent to the Judiciary Committee earlier this year, the 568 Presidents' Group stated that the exemption allows institutions to maximize the allocation of financial aid to "ensure that those funds are targeted to benefit the students with the greatest financial need and to reduce or, in some cases, eliminate debt loads on graduation."

Similarly, the presidents of Duke and Cornell have written in support of this legislation, stating that the exemption "makes a real difference for our students" and is essential to developing