

didn't think that she would start a ministry in Nicaragua, but that is where God led her. And now people who work and volunteer fear for their lives down there.

America has always been at the forefront of fighting human rights abuses around the world. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to do everything in my power to bring awareness to this pressing issue.

CONGRATULATING TEACH FOR AMERICA FELLOWS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the participants of the 2017 Teach for America Capitol Hill Fellows Program. Soon, many fellows will conclude their year-long placement with committees and Member offices throughout the House and the Senate.

The fellowship offers insights into the legislative process with a focus on professional development, mentorship, and networking opportunities. I have had the pleasure of hosting Paul Camacho, an educator from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as a part of my staff. Prior to his fellowship, Paul taught for 6 years in Philadelphia and 2 years in Chula Vista, California. Before becoming a teacher, Paul spent 8 years in the Marine Corps where he traveled extensively and learned important leadership skills.

Paul has been a valuable member of my team, and I am grateful for his service. I wish Paul and his family the best as they start their next chapter.

Mr. Speaker, I commend all of the 2017 Teach for America Capitol Hill Fellows for taking a year to immerse themselves in public policy and the workings of the legislative branch. I encourage my colleagues to explore what this tremendous program has to offer to their offices.

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 votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

LONG-TERM CARE VETERANS CHOICE ACT

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5693) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the placement of veterans in non-Depart-

ment medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently, to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to amend the interest rate for certain loans guaranteed under the home loan program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5693

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 "Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act".

SEC. 2. SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CONTRACT AUTHORITY FOR PLACEMENT OF VETERANS IN NON-DEPARTMENT MEDICAL FOSTER HOMES.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Section 1720 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(h)(1) During the three-year period beginning on October 1, 2019, and subject to paragraph (2), at the request of a veteran for whom the Secretary is required to provide nursing home care under section 1710A of this title, the Secretary may place the veteran in a medical foster home that meets Department standards, at the expense of the United States, pursuant to a contract, agreement, or other arrangement entered into between the Secretary and the medical foster home for such purpose. A veteran who is placed in a medical foster home under this subsection shall agree, as a condition of such placement, to accept home health services furnished by the Secretary under section 1717 of this title.

"(2) In any year, not more than a daily average of 900 veterans placed in a medical foster home, whether placed before or after the date of the enactment of this subsection, may have their care covered at the expense of the United States under subsection (a).

"(3) In this subsection, the term 'medical foster home' means a home designed to provide non-institutional, long-term, supportive care for veterans who are unable to live independently and prefer a family setting."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (h) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on October 1, 2019.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.

(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part V of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new chapter:

"CHAPTER 80—VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION

"8001. Organization of Administration.

"8002. Functions of Administration.

"8003. Annual report to Congress.

"§ 8001. Organization of Administration

"(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.—There is in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration. The primary function of the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is the administration of the programs of the Department that provide assistance related to economic opportunity

to veterans and their dependents and survivors.

"(b) UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION.—The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is under the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, who is directly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of the Administration.

"§ 8002. Functions of Administration

"The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is responsible for the administration of the following programs of the Department:

"(1) Vocational rehabilitation and employment programs.

"(2) Educational assistance programs.

"(3) Veterans' housing loan and related programs.

"(4) The verification of small businesses owned and controlled by veterans pursuant to subsection (f) of section 8127 of this title, including the administration of the database of veteran-owned businesses described in such subsection.

"(5) The Transition Assistance Program under section 1144 of title 10.

"(6) Any other program of the Department that the Secretary determines appropriate.

"§ 8003. Annual report to Congress

"The Secretary shall include in the annual report to the Congress required by section 529 of this title a report on the programs administered by the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. Each such report shall include the following with respect to each such program during the fiscal year covered by that report:

"(1) The number of claims received.

"(2) The number of claims decided.

"(3) The average processing time for a claim.

"(4) The number of successful outcomes (as determined by the Secretary).

"(5) The number of full-time equivalent employees.

"(6) The amounts expended for information technology."

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The tables of chapters at the beginning of title 38, United States Code, and of part V of title 38, United States Code, are each amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 79 the following new item:

"80. Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration 8001".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on October 1, 2019.

(c) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.—For fiscal years 2019 and 2020, the total number of full-time equivalent employees authorized for the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), may not exceed 23,692.

SEC. 4. UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION.

(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 306 the following new section:

"§ 306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition

"(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—There is in the Department an Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, who is appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or activity and solely on the basis of demonstrated ability in—

“(1) information technology; and
 “(2) the administration of programs within the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration or programs of similar content and scope.

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition is the head of, and is directly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of, the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

“(c) VACANCIES.—(1) Whenever a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition occurs or is anticipated, the Secretary shall establish a commission to recommend individuals to the President for appointment to the position.

“(2) A commission established under this subsection shall be composed of the following members appointed by the Secretary:

“(A) Three persons representing education and training, vocational rehabilitation, employment, real estate, mortgage finance and related industries, and survivor benefits activities affected by the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

“(B) Two persons representing veterans served by the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

“(C) Two persons who have experience in the management of private sector benefits programs of similar content and scope to the economic opportunity and transition programs of the Department.

“(D) The Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

“(E) The chairman of the Veterans’ Advisory Committee on Education formed under section 3692 of this title.

“(F) One person who has held the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, if the Secretary determines that it is desirable for such person to be a member of the commission.

“(3) A commission established under this subsection shall recommend at least three individuals for appointment to the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. The commission shall submit all recommendations to the Secretary. The Secretary shall forward the recommendations to the President and the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives with any comments the Secretary considers appropriate. Thereafter, the President may request the commission to recommend additional individuals for appointment.

“(4) The Assistant Secretary or Deputy Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs who performs personnel management and labor relations functions shall serve as the executive secretary of a commission established under this subsection.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 306 the following new item:

“306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 38, United States Code, is further amended—

(1) in section 306(c)(2), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (E) and redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (F), as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively;

(2) in section 317(d)(2), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition,”;

(3) in section 318(d)(2), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition,”;

(4) in section 516(e)(2)(C), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Sec-

retary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(5) in section 541(a)(2)(B), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(6) in section 542(a)(2)(B)(iii), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(7) in section 544(a)(2)(B)(vi), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(8) in section 709(c)(2)(A), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition,”;

(9) in section 7701(a), by inserting after “assistance” the following: “, other than assistance related to Economic Opportunity and Transition,”; and

(10) in section 7703, by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 306A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and the amendments made by this section, shall take effect on October 1, 2019.

SEC. 5. LOANS GUARANTEED UNDER HOME LOAN PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 3729(b)(2)(E) of such title is amended to read as follows:

“Type of loan	Active duty veteran	Reservist	Other obligor
(E)(i) Interest rate reduction refinancing loan (closed before January 1, 2019)	0.50	0.50	NA
(E)(ii) Interest rate reduction refinancing loan (closed on or after January 1, 2019, but before March 1, 2025)	0.75	0.75	NA
(E)(iii) Interest rate reduction refinancing loan (closed on or after March 1, 2025)	0.50	0.50	NA”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 5693, as amended, the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act. This bill would expand long-term care opportunities for veterans by allowing the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, to cover the cost of a medical foster home for certain veterans.

Medical foster homes are private homes in which a trained caregiver provides round-the-clock care to a small group of individuals. Medical foster homes have proven to be a popular, safe, and cost-effective alternative to traditional nursing homes, particularly for veterans who prefer a more familial, less institutional care setting.

However, VA is unable to cover the cost of care for a veteran residing in a medical foster home. That is true even for veterans who VA would otherwise be required to pay for in a more expensive nursing home.

As a result, VA estimates the department pays more than twice as much for nursing home care than it otherwise would. The Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act would help address that issue, and, in doing so, ensure that veterans have the flexibility to choose the long-term care setting that feels most comfortable for them.

The bill would also create a Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration to be led by an under secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. Investing in

education and employment opportunities for our Nation’s veterans is one of VA’s most important but least recognized missions.

Today, programs concerning education and employment are embedded within the Veterans Benefit Administration, which, understandably, devotes most of its time, attention, and resources on disability compensation-related issues and backlogs that rise and fall with time.

Creating a new administration within VA to house education and employment programs will ensure that those programs receive the focused leadership, time and attention that they deserve.

To offset the medical foster home and Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration provisions of the bill, it would also authorize a temporary increase in the VA home loan funding fee for interest reduction loans when refinancing homes. This bill is sponsored by Congressman CLAY HIGGINS from Louisiana. As an engaged member of the Subcommittee on Health, CLAY is a champion for his

fellow veterans, and I thank him for his leadership on this legislation.

I am also grateful to my good friend and former senior committee member, Dr. BRAD WENSTRUP from Ohio, who has sponsored the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration provisions of this bill. As a veteran and physician, Brad has championed veteran employment and education issues because he knows better than most how important it is that veterans transitioning from combat zones come home to meaningful education and employment opportunities.

I thank him for his efforts and urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, to begin, I thank Representative HIGGINS for his hard work on this legislation, and I support H.R. 5693, as amended.

This bipartisan legislation is a forward-thinking first step toward better aligning VA's long-term care options with veteran preferences.

Medical foster homes are a solution for veterans that may not be comfortable in a traditional institutional setting, such as a nursing home, yet still need some form of daily assistance and care. These homes provide caregiving services in a group setting for veterans that lack access to caregiving services at home.

By allowing VA to cover the cost of medical foster homes, VA will be able to ensure veterans are achieving the most appropriate level of care in the most appropriate setting.

The care delivered at medical foster homes is less intensive; therefore, less expensive. Additionally, the sense of community and the familiar home-like setting can promote a veteran's physical and mental health.

Again, I appreciate my colleague's hard work on this legislation and look forward to voting in favor of the bill. I congratulate the gentleman from Louisiana's hard work.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS), an active member of the VA committee and one of the primary sponsors of this, an Army veteran, and reserve police officer.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5693, the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act. My bill would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs for 3 years to cover the cost of long-term care at medical foster homes for up to 900 veterans at a time who are otherwise eligible for nursing home care through the VA.

Medical foster homes are private homes in which a caregiver provides services to a smaller group of individuals who are unable to live without

day-to-day assistance. Medical foster homes are an alternative to nursing homes for those who require care but prefer a noninstitutional setting with fewer residents.

For many younger veterans in need of round-the-clock care, medical foster homes can provide a more age-appropriate independent setting than traditional nursing homes. The VA has operated its medical foster home initiative for nearly 20 years, and currently oversees more than 700 licensed caregivers assisting nearly 1,000 veterans across 42 States.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, while the VA will cover the cost of home-based primary care for eligible veterans living in medical foster homes, the VA does not cover the cost of medical foster home living arrangements for veterans eligible for nursing home care through the VA. The reforms in my bill increase access to medical foster homes and represent a significant cost savings for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There should be no one-size-fits-all standard of care for veterans. Veterans should be afforded flexibility to use the benefits they rightfully earned in a manner that best suits their individual needs, which is why the VA, American Legion, and many other veteran service organizations have offered their support for this language.

Further, the bill refocuses the administrative bodies of the VA to better prioritize programs like the GI bill, vocational rehabilitation, home loan benefits, and transition assistance programs that create economic opportunities for veterans.

This allows existing veterans' health benefits and National Cemetery Administration to better focus on providing healthcare and cemetery services. This critical refocus will improve oversight and veterans access to important services like the medical foster home program that give much needed choice and personal dignity back to the brave men and women who have sacrificed so much for our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this bill reflects the compassion of the American citizenry in our dedication to serve the veterans who have served us. Please join me in supporting our servicemen and women by voting in support of H.R. 5693, the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA), a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and let it also be known that prior to his coming to Congress, he chaired a veterans committee in the California State Legislature.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5693, the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act. This bipartisan legislation will expand veterans' access to medical foster homes, an alternative to nursing home care, by allowing the Department of Veterans Affairs to cover such care for up to 900 veterans every year.

□ 1230

The Medical Foster Homes program allows eligible veterans who require day-to-day assistance to live in private homes with trained caregivers who provide around-the-clock care and the services needed to help these veterans with their daily tasks, such as getting dressed. The program requires that caregivers be licensed and involved in frequent inspections by the VA.

Most importantly, the Medical Foster Homes program provides aging veterans the option to live in a private setting that may feel more like a home than a nursing institution.

Additionally, the amended bill creates a fourth administration within the VA, headed by a new Under Secretary, to administer the educational and employment benefits currently managed by the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 5693.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), my good friend, who has been an active member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and chairs the Subcommittee on Health. I appreciate his leadership on this bill.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act, legislation that contains the text of my bill, the VET OPP Act. The VET OPP Act continues our effort to invest in our troops from the day they take their oath of service to when they begin their civilian careers.

Part of our commitment to our men and women in uniform is helping them reintegrate back into civilian life. We can ease this transition by prioritizing programs that help them find meaningful employment or educational opportunities when they return home.

For too long, the outdated structure of the VA has allowed economic opportunity and transition programs for our veterans to fall by the wayside. H.R. 5693 will change that. With the inclusion of the VET OPP Act, it prioritizes veteran employment and education programs at the VA by utilizing existing resources to place educational, employment, and transition programs together in a fourth administration within the VA. This will promote transparency and oversight, while placing greater priority on opportunity-based programs within the VA.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5693.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 5693, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, this is commonsense legislation that will allow veterans in certain circumstances to stay in a less intense nursing home facility. We hear this all the time: "I don't want to go to a nursing home." This will allow veterans who have earned these benefits to reside outside there. It is much less expensive for the VA, and it is also much

better for the veteran if they can do this.

A second part of this bill, which is to create the fourth administration, is not more bureaucracy, but to focus on the education benefits and transition as Active-Duty military leave and enter civilian life again. I think it is one of the most critical things we do. A seamless transition from Active Duty to an active job, I think, will help reduce veteran depression, suicide, dependence, and other things. That is why we wanted to do this.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5693, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EMMER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5693, 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.

STRENGTHENING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2353) to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. References.
- Sec. 4. Effective date.
- Sec. 5. Table of contents of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.
- Sec. 6. Purpose.
- Sec. 7. Definitions.
- Sec. 8. Transition provisions.
- Sec. 9. Prohibitions.
- Sec. 10. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE I—CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ASSISTANCE TO THE STATES

PART A—ALLOTMENT AND ALLOCATION

- Sec. 110. Reservations and State allotment
- Sec. 111. Within State allocation.
- Sec. 112. Accountability.
- Sec. 113. National activities.
- Sec. 114. Assistance for the outlying areas.
- Sec. 115. Native American Programs.
- Sec. 116. Tribally controlled postsecondary career and technical institutions.
- Sec. 117. Occupational and employment information.

PART B—STATE PROVISIONS

- Sec. 121. State administration.
- Sec. 122. State plan.

- Sec. 123. Improvement plans.
- Sec. 124. State leadership activities.

PART C—LOCAL PROVISIONS

- Sec. 131. Distribution of funds to secondary education programs.
- Sec. 132. Special rules for career and technical education.
- Sec. 133. Local application for career and technical education programs.
- Sec. 134. Local uses of funds.

TITLE II—GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Sec. 201. Federal and State administrative provisions.

TITLE III—AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS

- Sec. 301. Amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act.
- Sec. 302. Amendments to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.
- Sec. 303. Amendment to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect beginning on July 1, 2019.

SEC. 5. TABLE OF CONTENTS OF THE CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT OF 2006.

Section 1(b) is amended to read as follows:

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

- "Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- "Sec. 2. Purpose.
- "Sec. 3. Definitions.
- "Sec. 4. Transition provisions.
- "Sec. 5. Privacy.
- "Sec. 6. Limitation.
- "Sec. 7. Special rule.
- "Sec. 8. Prohibitions.
- "Sec. 9. Authorization of appropriations.

"TITLE I—CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ASSISTANCE TO THE STATES

"PART A—ALLOTMENT AND ALLOCATION

- "Sec. 111. Reservations and State allotment.
- "Sec. 112. Within State allocation.
- "Sec. 113. Accountability.
- "Sec. 114. National activities.
- "Sec. 115. Assistance for the outlying areas.
- "Sec. 116. Native American programs.
- "Sec. 117. Tribally controlled postsecondary career and technical institutions.

"PART B—STATE PROVISIONS

- "Sec. 121. State administration.
- "Sec. 122. State plan.
- "Sec. 123. Improvement plans.
- "Sec. 124. State leadership activities.

"PART C—LOCAL PROVISIONS

- "Sec. 131. Distribution of funds to secondary education programs.
- "Sec. 132. Distribution of funds for postsecondary education programs.
- "Sec. 133. Special rules for career and technical education.
- "Sec. 134. Local application for career and technical education programs.
- "Sec. 135. Local uses of funds.

"TITLE II—GENERAL PROVISIONS

"PART A—FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

- "Sec. 211. Fiscal requirements.
- "Sec. 212. Authority to make payments.
- "Sec. 213. Construction.
- "Sec. 214. Voluntary selection and participation.
- "Sec. 215. Limitation for certain students.
- "Sec. 216. Federal laws guaranteeing civil rights.

"Sec. 217. Participation of private school personnel and children.

"Sec. 218. Limitation on Federal regulations.

"Sec. 219. Study on programs of study aligned to high-skill, high-wage occupations.

"PART B—STATE ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

- "Sec. 221. Joint funding.
- "Sec. 222. Prohibition on use of funds to induce out-of-State relocation of businesses.
- "Sec. 223. State administrative costs.
- "Sec. 224. Student assistance and other Federal programs."

SEC. 6. PURPOSE.

Section 2 (20 U.S.C. 2301) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "academic and career and technical skills" and inserting "academic knowledge and technical and employability skills"; and

(B) by inserting "and programs of study" after "technical education programs";

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking "high demand occupations" and inserting "in-demand occupations";

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking "including tech prep education";

(4) in paragraph (4), by inserting "and programs of study" after "technical education programs";

(5) in paragraph (6), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(6) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting "and"; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

"(8) increasing the employment opportunities for populations who are chronically unemployed or underemployed, including individuals with disabilities, individuals from economically disadvantaged families, out-of-workforce individuals, youth who are in, or have aged out of, the foster care system, and homeless individuals."

SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

Section 3 (20 U.S.C. 2302) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraphs (10), (16), (23), (24), (25), (26), and (32);

(2) by redesigning paragraphs (8), (9), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), (17), (18), (19), (20), (21), (22), (27), (28), (29), (30), (31), (33), and (34) as paragraphs (9), (10), (17), (18), (20), (21), (24), (28), (30), (31), (33), (34), (39), (44), (45), (48), (49), (50), (51), and (52), respectively;

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking "including information as described in section 118";

(4) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking "5 different occupational fields to individuals who are available for study in preparation for entering the labor market" and inserting "3 different fields that are available to all students, especially in high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations"; and

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking "not fewer than 5 different occupational fields" and inserting "not fewer than 3 different occupational fields";

(5) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by amending clause (i) to read as follows: "(i) provides individuals with rigorous academic content and relevant technical knowledge and skills needed to prepare for further education and careers in current or emerging professions, which may include high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations, which shall be, at the secondary level, aligned with the challenging State academic standards adopted by a State under section 1111(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;"

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking "an industry-recognized credential, a certificate, or an associate degree" and inserting "or a recognized postsecondary credential, which may include an industry-recognized credential, a certificate, or an associate degree"; and