

(4) After two years of battling PTSD and failing to receive the necessary treatment, Sgt. Toombs tragically took his own life in November of 2016.

(5) However, the life of Sergeant Toombs has impacted other veterans in Tennessee suffering from PTSD. Since this devastating tragedy, positive measures have been made to raise awareness and improve the overall treatment of veterans suffering from PTSD within the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System.

## SEC. 2. SERGEANT JOHN TOOMBS RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION TREATMENT FACILITY.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Facility Expansion of the Department of Veterans Affairs Alvin C. York Medical Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, shall be known and designated as the “Sergeant John Toombs Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Facility”, after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Alvin C. York Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Sergeant John Toombs Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Facility”.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2018

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3479) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.  
The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3479

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2018”.

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

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

### TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY

#### Subtitle A—Health Care Matters

Sec. 101. Extension of authority for collection of copayments for hospital care and nursing home care.  
Sec. 102. Extension of requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities.  
Sec. 103. Removal of authorization of appropriations to provide assistance and support services for caregivers.  
Sec. 104. Making permanent authority for recovery from third parties of cost of care and services furnished to veterans with health-plan contracts for non-service-connected disability.  
Sec. 105. Extension of authority for transfer of real property.

Sec. 106. Extension of authority for pilot program on assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care.

Sec. 107. Extension of authority to make grants to veterans service organizations for transportation of highly rural veterans.

Sec. 108. Extension of authority for pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service.

Sec. 109. Extension of temporary expansion of payments and allowances for beneficiary travel in connection with veterans receiving care from vet centers.

#### Subtitle B—Benefits Matters

Sec. 121. Making permanent authority for temporary expansion of eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance for certain veterans with disabilities causing difficulty ambulating.

Sec. 122. Extension of authority for specially adapted housing assistive technology grant program.

Sec. 123. Making permanent authority to guarantee payment of principal and interest on certificates or other securities.

Sec. 124. Making permanent authority for calculating net value of real property at time of foreclosure.

Sec. 125. Extension of authority relating to vendee loans.

Sec. 126. Making permanent authority to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses.

Sec. 127. Extension of authority to enter into agreement with the National Academy of Sciences regarding associations between diseases and exposure to dioxin and other chemical compounds in herbicides.

#### Subtitle C—Homeless Veterans Matters

Sec. 141. Extension of authority for homeless veterans reintegration programs.

Sec. 142. Extension of authority for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration program.

Sec. 143. Extension of authority for referral and counseling services for veterans at risk of homelessness transitioning from certain institutions.

Sec. 144. Extension of authority for treatment and rehabilitation services for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans.

Sec. 145. Extension of authority for financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.

Sec. 146. Extension of authority for grant program for homeless veterans with special needs.

Sec. 147. Extension of authority for the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.

#### Subtitle D—Other Matters

Sec. 161. Extension of authority for transportation of individuals to and from Department of Veterans Affairs facilities.

Sec. 162. Extension of authority for operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs regional office in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines.

Sec. 163. Extension of authority for monthly assistance allowances under the Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events.

Sec. 164. Extension of requirement to provide reports to Congress regarding equitable relief in the case of administrative error.

Sec. 165. Extension of authorization of appropriations for adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans and members of the armed forces.

Sec. 166. Extension of authority for Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans.

## TITLE II—IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH CARE FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Sec. 201. Treatment of modifications of contracts under Veterans Community Care program.

Sec. 202. Modification of provision requiring recognition and acceptance, on an interim basis, of credentials and qualifications of health care providers under community care program.

Sec. 203. Expansion of coverage of Veterans Care Agreements.

Sec. 204. Modification of authority for deduction of overpayments for health care.

Sec. 205. Modification of eligibility of former members of the Armed Forces for mental and behavioral health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 206. Access of health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs to drug monitoring programs that do not participate in the national network.

Sec. 207. Elimination of report on activities and proposals involving contracting for performance by contractor personnel of work previously performed by Department employees.

Sec. 208. Additional report on increased availability of opioid receptor antagonists.

Sec. 209. Expansion of health care assessment to include all territories of the United States and the assessment of extended care services.

Sec. 210. Authorization of major medical facility project at Department of Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles Medical Center.

Sec. 211. Technical amendments to VA MISSION Act of 2018 and amendments made by that Act.

## TITLE III—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 301. Approval of courses of education provided by public institutions of higher education for purposes of training and rehabilitation for veterans with service-connected disabilities conditional on in-State tuition rate for veterans.

Sec. 302. Corrective action for certain Department of Veterans Affairs employees for conflicts of interest with educational institutions operated for profit.

Sec. 303. Modification of compliance requirements for particular leases relating to Department of Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles Campus.

**SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.**

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 title 38, United States Code.

**TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY****Subtitle A—Health Care Matters****SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTION OF COPAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL CARE AND NURSING HOME CARE.**

Section 1710(f)(2)(B) is amended by striking “September 30, 2019” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

**SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE NURSING HOME CARE TO CERTAIN VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.**

Section 1710A(d) is amended by striking “September 30, 2019” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

**SEC. 103. REMOVAL OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR CAREGIVERS.**

Section 1720G is amended by striking subsection (e).

**SEC. 104. MAKING PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR RECOVERY FROM THIRD PARTIES OF COST OF CARE AND SERVICES FURNISHED TO VETERANS WITH HEALTH-PLAN CONTRACTS FOR NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.**

Section 1729(a)(2)(E) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “before September 30, 2019,”.

**SEC. 105. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY.**

Section 8118(a)(5) is amended by striking “December 31, 2018” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

**SEC. 106. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM ON ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS RECEIVING HEALTH CARE.**

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Subsection (e) of section 205 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1144; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking “September 30, 2019” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Subsection (h) of such section is amended by striking “and 2019” and inserting “2019, and 2020”.

**SEC. 107. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS TO VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF HIGHLY RURAL VETERANS.**

Section 307(d) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1154; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking “2019” and inserting “2020”.

**SEC. 108. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM ON COUNSELING IN RETREAT SETTINGS FOR WOMEN VETERANS NEWLY SEPARATED FROM SERVICE.**

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Subsection (d) of section 203 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1143; 38 U.S.C. 1712A note) is amended by striking “September 30, 2019” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Subsection (f) of such section is amended by striking “and 2019” and inserting “2019, and 2020”.

**SEC. 109. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF PAYMENTS AND ALLOWANCES FOR BENEFICIARY TRAVEL IN CONNECTION WITH VETERANS RECEIVING CARE FROM VET CENTERS.**

Section 104(a) of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-154; 126 Stat. 1169), as amended by section 109(a) of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-62; 131 Stat. 1162), is amended by striking “September 30, 2018” and inserting “September 30, 2019”.

**Subtitle B—Benefits Matters****SEC. 121. MAKING PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES CAUSING DIFFICULTY AMBULATING.**

Section 2101(a)(4) is amended by striking “(A) Except” and all that follows through “(B) In each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, the Secretary” and inserting “In any fiscal year, the Secretary”.

**SEC. 122. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM.**

Section 2108(g) is amended by striking “September 30, 2018” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

**SEC. 123. MAKING PERMANENT AUTHORITY TO GUARANTEE PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON CERTIFICATES OR OTHER SECURITIES.**

Section 3720(h) is amended—  
(1) by striking paragraph (2); and  
(2) by striking “(1)”.

**SEC. 124. MAKING PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR CALCULATING NET VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY AT TIME OF FORECLOSURE.**

Section 3732(c) is amended by striking paragraph (1).

**SEC. 125. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO VENDEE LOANS.**

Section 3733(a)(7) is amended—  
(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2018” and inserting “September 30, 2019”; and  
(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “September 30, 2018,” and inserting “September 30, 2019”.

**SEC. 126. MAKING PERMANENT AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH SEVERE INJURIES OR ILLNESSES.**

Section 1631(b) of the Wounded Warrior Act (title XVI of Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended—  
(1) by striking paragraph (2); and  
(2) by striking “(1) IN GENERAL.”.

**SEC. 127. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REGARDING ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN DISEASES AND EXPOSURE TO DIOXIN AND OTHER CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS IN HERBICIDES.**

Section 3(i) of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-4; 38 U.S.C. 1116 note) is amended by striking “September 30, 2018” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

**Subtitle C—Homeless Veterans Matters****SEC. 141. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.**

Section 2021(e)(1)(F) is amended by striking “2018” and inserting “2020”.

**SEC. 142. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS AND HOMELESS VETERANS WITH CHILDREN REINTEGRATION PROGRAM.**

Section 2021A(f)(1) is amended by striking “2018” and inserting “2020”.

**SEC. 143. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR REFERRAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR VETERANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS TRANSITIONING FROM CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.**

Section 2023(d) is amended by striking “September 30, 2018” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

**SEC. 144. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.**

(a) **GENERAL TREATMENT.**—Section 2031(b) is amended by striking “September 30, 2019” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

(b) **ADDITIONAL SERVICES AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS.**—Section 2033(d) is amended by striking “September 30, 2019” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

**SEC. 145. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.**

Section 2044(e)(1) is amended by striking subparagraph (F) and inserting the following:

“(F) \$340,000,000 for fiscal year 2018.

“(G) \$380,000,000 for fiscal year 2019.”.

**SEC. 146. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.**

Section 2061(d)(1) is amended by striking “2019” and inserting “2020”.

**SEC. 147. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.**

Section 2066(d) is amended by striking “September 30, 2018” and inserting “September 30, 2022”.

**Subtitle D—Other Matters****SEC. 161. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TRANSPORTATION OF INDIVIDUALS TO AND FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES.**

Section 111A(a)(2) is amended by striking “September 30, 2019” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

**SEC. 162. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR OPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGIONAL OFFICE IN MANILA, THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.**

Section 315(b) is amended by striking “September 30, 2018” and inserting “September 30, 2019”.

**SEC. 163. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR MONTHLY ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCES UNDER THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL VETERANS SPORTS PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS.**

Section 322(d)(4) is amended by striking “2019” and inserting “2020”.

**SEC. 164. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE REPORTS TO CONGRESS REGARDING EQUITABLE RELIEF IN THE CASE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR.**

Section 503(c) is amended by striking “December 31, 2018” and inserting “December 31, 2020”.

**SEC. 165. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

Section 521A is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “2019” and inserting “2020”; and

(2) in subsection (l), by striking “2019” and inserting “2020”.

**SEC. 166. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY VETERANS.**

(a) **EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.**—Subsection (e) of section 544 is amended by striking “September 30, 2018” and inserting “September 30, 2022”.

(b) **MODIFICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—Subsection (c)(1) of such section is

amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “each year” and inserting “every other year”.

## TITLE II—IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH CARE FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### SEC. 201. TREATMENT OF MODIFICATIONS OF CONTRACTS UNDER VETERANS COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1703(h)(1) is amended—

(1) by striking “The Secretary shall” and inserting “(A) The Secretary shall”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the requirement to enter into consolidated, competitively bid contracts shall not restrict the authority of the Secretary under other provisions of law when modifying such a contract after entering into the contract.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the effective date specified in section 101(b) of the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–182).

### SEC. 202. MODIFICATION OF PROVISION REQUIRING RECOGNITION AND ACCEPTANCE, ON AN INTERIM BASIS, OF CREDENTIALS AND QUALIFICATIONS OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS UNDER COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM.

Section 1703(h)(5)(A) is amended by striking “the date of the enactment” and inserting “the effective date specified in section 101(b)”.

### SEC. 203. EXPANSION OF COVERAGE OF VETERANS CARE AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1703A is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered individual’ means any individual eligible for hospital care, medical services, or extended care services under this title or any other law administered by the Secretary.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1703A is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “veteran” each place it appears and inserting “covered individual”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking “veteran” and inserting “covered individual”; and

(ii) by striking “veteran’s” and inserting “covered individual’s”;

(2) in subsection (e)(2)(B), by striking “veteran” each place it appears and inserting “covered individual”;

(3) in subsection (f)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “veterans” and inserting “covered individuals”; and

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking “veteran” and inserting “covered individual”;

(4) in subsection (g), by striking “to veterans” and inserting “to covered individuals”; and

(5) in subsection (j)—

(A) by striking “any veteran” and inserting “any covered individual”; and

(B) by striking “to veterans” each place it appears and inserting “to covered individuals”.

### SEC. 204. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY FOR DEDUCTION OF OVERPAYMENTS FOR HEALTH CARE.

Section 1703D(e)(1) is amended—

(1) by striking “shall” and inserting “may”; and

(2) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and may use any other

means authorized by another provision of law to correct or recover overpayments”.

### SEC. 205. MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 1720I(b)(3) is amended by striking “is not otherwise eligible to enroll” and inserting “is not enrolled”.

### SEC. 206. ACCESS OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO DRUG MONITORING PROGRAMS THAT DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL NETWORK.

Section 1730B is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, or any individual State or regional prescription drug monitoring program,” after “programs”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “such network” and inserting “the national network of State-based prescription monitoring programs, or, if providing care in a State that does not participate in such national network, an individual State or regional prescription drug monitoring program,”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, or any individual State or regional prescription drug monitoring program,” after “programs”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2) by inserting “, or any individual State or regional prescription drug monitoring program,” after “programs”.

### SEC. 207. ELIMINATION OF REPORT ON ACTIVITIES AND PROPOSALS INVOLVING CONTRACTING FOR PERFORMANCE BY CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL OF WORK PREVIOUSLY PERFORMED BY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES.

Section 8110 is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively.

### SEC. 208. ADDITIONAL REPORT ON INCREASED AVAILABILITY OF OPIOID RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS.

Section 911(e)(2) of the Jason Simcakoski Memorial and Promise Act (Public Law 114–198; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by inserting “and not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2018” before “the Secretary shall”.

### SEC. 209. EXPANSION OF HEALTH CARE ASSESSMENT TO INCLUDE ALL TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE ASSESSMENT OF EXTENDED CARE SERVICES.

Section 213 of the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–182) is amended—

(1) in the section header, by striking “PACIFIC TERRITORIES” and inserting “TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES”; and

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “180 days” and inserting “270 days”; and

(B) by striking “Pacific territories” and inserting “territories of the United States”; and

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Pacific territories” and inserting “territories of the United States”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) Extended care.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “community-based outpatient clinic” and inserting “medical facility”; and

(ii) by striking “Pacific territory” and inserting “territory of the United States”; and

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “Pacific territories” and inserting “territories of the United States”; and

(B) by striking “and”; and

(C) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands”.

### SEC. 210. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WEST LOS ANGELES MEDICAL CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the major medical facility project described in subsection (b) in fiscal year 2019, in an amount not to exceed \$35,000,000.

(b) MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT.—The major medical facility project described in this subsection is the construction of a new regional food services facility building on the campus of the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in West Los Angeles, California, to replace the seismically deficient Building 300, Regional Food Service Facility, which is located on the north campus of the medical center as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

### SEC. 211. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO VA MISSION ACT OF 2018 AND AMENDMENTS MADE BY THAT ACT.

(a) TITLE 38.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORT ON PERFORMANCE AWARDS AND BONUSES.—Section 726(c)(3) is amended by striking “, United States Code”.

(2) VETERANS CARE AGREEMENTS.—Section 1703A(h)(4) is amended by striking “, United States Code”.

(3) ACCESS STANDARDS.—Section 1703B(i) is amended—

(A) by striking “(1) The term” and inserting “In this section:

“(1) The term”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by moving subparagraphs (A) and (B) two ems to the right;

(C) by moving paragraph (2) two ems to the right; and

(D) in paragraph (2), by striking “refers to” and inserting “means”.

(4) STANDARDS FOR QUALITY.—Section 1703C(c) is amended—

(A) by striking “(c)(1) The term” and inserting “(c) DEFINITIONS.— In this section:

“(1) The term”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by moving subparagraphs (A) and (B) two ems to the right;

(C) by moving paragraph (2) two ems to the right; and

(D) in paragraph (2), by striking “refers to” and inserting “means”.

(5) PROMPT PAYMENT STANDARD.—Section 1703D(g)(3) is amended by striking “of this Act, as amended by the Caring for Our Veterans Act of 2018,” and inserting “of this title”.

(6) REMEDIATION OF MEDICAL SERVICE LINES.—Section 1706A is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “of this title” after “section 1703(e)(1)”; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “subsection (a)”.

(7) WALK-IN CARE.—Section 1725A is amended—

(A) in subsection (c), by striking “or other agreement” and inserting “agreement, or other arrangement”; and

(B) in subsection (f)(4), by striking “Section 8153(c)” and inserting “Sections 8153(c) and 1703A(j)”.

(8) AUTHORITY TO RECOVER THE COST OF SERVICES FURNISHED FOR NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.—Section 1729(a)(2)(D) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”.

(9) AGREEMENTS WITH STATE HOMES.—Section 1745(a)(4)(B)(ii)(III) is amended by striking “subchapter V of chapter 17 of this title” and inserting “this subchapter”.

(10) TRANSPLANT PROCEDURES WITH LIVE DONORS AND RELATED SERVICES.—Section 1788(c) is amended by striking “this chapter” and inserting “this title”.

(11) QUADRENNIAL VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION REVIEW.—Section 7330C is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “Secretary of Veterans Affairs” and inserting “Secretary”;

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (B), by striking “Department of Veterans Affairs” and inserting “Department”;

(II) in subparagraph (C), by striking “of title 38, as added by section 102” and inserting “of this title”; and

(III) in subparagraph (H)(i), by striking “Department of Veterans Affairs” and inserting “Department”; and

(iii) in paragraph (4)—

(I) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by inserting “of this title” after “section 1703C”; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “of this title” after “section 1703(b)”;

(B) in subsection (b)(2)(I), by inserting “of this title” after “section 1706A”; and

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “such high performing” and inserting “a high-performing”; and

(ii) in paragraph (3), by inserting “such” before “a high-performing”.

(12) DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SPECIALTY EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—Section 7693(a)(1) is amended by striking “is hired” and inserting “will be eligible for appointment”.

(b) VA MISSION ACT.—

(1) TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ADMINISTRATION OF NON-DEPARTMENT HEALTH CARE.—Section 122(a)(2) of the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182) is amended by striking “such title” and inserting “title 38, United States Code”.

(2) PROCESSES FOR SAFE OPIOID PRESCRIBING PRACTICES BY NON-DEPARTMENT PROVIDERS.—Section 131 of the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(1)—

(i) by inserting “of title 38, United States Code,” after “section 1703(a)(2)(A)”;

(ii) by striking “of this title” each place it appears and inserting “of this Act”; and

(iii) by inserting “of such title” after “section 1703A(e)(2)(F)”;

(B) in subsection (d), by striking “covered veterans” each place it appears and inserting “veterans”.

(3) PLANS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 141 of the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182) is amended by striking “Whenever the Secretary” and inserting “Whenever the Secretary of Veterans Affairs”.

(4) TELEMEDICINE REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Section 151(c)(1) of the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182) is amended by striking “section 1730B” and inserting “section 1730C”.

(5) EXPANSION OF FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM.—Section 161(a)(1)(B) of the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Net-

works Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182) is amended by striking “such title” and inserting “title 38, United States Code”.

(6) SPECIALTY EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—Section 303 of the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182) is amended—

(A) in subsection (d), by inserting “of Veterans Affairs” after “Department”; and

(B) in subsection (e), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “established” and inserting “under subchapter VIII of chapter 76 of title 38, United States Code, as enacted”.

(7) VETERANS HEALING VETERANS MEDICAL ACCESS AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 304 of the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “covered medical schools” and inserting “covered medical school”; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking “entitled to” and inserting “concurrently receiving”;

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking “2019” and inserting “2020”; and

(iii) in paragraph (6), by striking “subsection (e)” and inserting “subsection (d)”;

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “2019” and inserting “2020”; and

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking “2019” and inserting “2020”;

(D) in subsection (e), by striking “2019” and inserting “2020”; and

(E) in subsection (f), by striking “December 31, 2020” and inserting “December 31, 2021”.

(8) DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN MEDICAL FACILITIES AS UNDERSERVED FACILITIES AND PLAN TO ADDRESS PROBLEM OF UNDERSERVED FACILITIES.—Section 401 of the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(5), by adding “or the applicable access standards developed under section 1703B of title 38, United States Code” after “the wait-time goals of the Department”; and

(B) in subsection (d)(2)(A), by striking “section 407” and inserting “section 402”.

(9) PILOT PROGRAM ON GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESIDENCY.—Section 403(b)(4) of the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182) is amended by inserting “under” after “an agreement”.

(10) DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL SCRIBE PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 507 of the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(3), by striking “as determine” and inserting “as determined”; and

(B) in subsection (c)(2)(C), by striking “speciality” and inserting “specialty”.

## TITLE III—OTHER MATTERS

### SEC. 301. APPROVAL OF COURSES OF EDUCATION PROVIDED BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR PURPOSES OF TRAINING AND REHABILITATION FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES CONDITIONAL ON IN-STATE TUITION RATE FOR VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3679(c) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “chapter 30 or 33” and inserting “chapter 30, 31, or 33”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) An individual who is entitled to rehabilitation under section 3102(a) of this title.”;

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking “paragraph (2)(A) or (2)(B)” and inserting “paragraph (2)(A), (2)(B), or (2)(C)”;

(4) in paragraph (6), by striking “chapters 30 and 33” and inserting “chapters 30, 31, and 33”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to courses of education provided during a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, that begins after March 1, 2019.

### SEC. 302. CORRECTIVE ACTION FOR CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEES FOR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WITH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OPERATED FOR PROFIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3683 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—(1) An officer or employee of the Department shall receive corrective action or disciplinary action if such officer or employee—

“(A) has, while serving as such an officer or employee, owned any interest in, or received any wage, salary, dividend, profit, or gift from, any educational institution operated for profit; or

“(B) has, while serving as a covered officer or employee of the Department, received any service from any educational institution operated for profit.

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘covered officer or employee of the Department’ means an officer or employee of the Department who—

“(A) works on the administration of benefits under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, or 36 of this title; or

“(B) has a potential conflict of interest involving an educational institution operated for profit, as determined by the Secretary.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “If the Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(b) STATE APPROVING AGENCY EMPLOYEES.—If the Secretary”;

(B) by striking “wages, salary, dividends, profits, gratuities, or services” and inserting “wage, salary, dividend, profit, or gift”;

(C) by striking “in which an eligible person or veteran was pursuing a program of education or course under this chapter or chapter 34 or 35 of this title”;

(D) by striking “terminate the employment of” and inserting “provide corrective action or disciplinary action with respect to”;

(E) by striking “while such person is an officer or employee of the State approving agency, or State department of veterans’ affairs or State department of education” and inserting “until the completion of such corrective action or disciplinary action”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “A State approving agency” and inserting the following:

“(c) DISAPPROVAL OF COURSES.—A State approving agency”;

(B) by striking “of Veterans Affairs”; and  
(C) by striking “wages, salary, dividends, profits, gratuities, or services” and inserting “wage, salary, dividend, profit, or gift”; and  
(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking “The Secretary may” and inserting the following:

“(d) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—(1) The Secretary may”;

(B) by striking “of Veterans Affairs”;

(C) by striking “, after reasonable notice and public hearings,”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) The Secretary shall provide public notice of any waiver granted under this subsection by not later than 30 days after the date on which such waiver is granted.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to conflicts of interest that occur on or after that date.

**SEC. 303. MODIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICULAR LEASES RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WEST LOS ANGELES CAMPUS.**

Section 2(h)(1) of the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-226) is amended by striking “any lease or land-sharing agreement at the Campus” and inserting “any new lease or land-sharing agreement at the Campus that is not in compliance with such laws”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3479, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2018. This legislation represents bipartisan, bicameral agreement that would extend a number of expiring authorities impacting the lives of our veterans and their caregivers, their dependents, and their survivors. Swift passage of this legislation today would ensure that many of the benefits, programs, and services that they rely on would continue.

The authorities that would be extended in this bill include authorities to provide nursing home care, counseling for women veterans, assistance for homeless veterans, transportation, childcare, adaptive sports programs, and housing and home loan services, just to name a few.

To be clear, these are not new authorities. The costs associated with them have been assumed in the House-passed appropriations bill for fiscal year 2019 and the 2020 advance appropriations.

In addition to the extension of current programs, the bill would also make permanent several provisions, including provisions related to VA's home loan program. It makes permanent the authority for disabled service-members to begin using VA vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits while on Active Duty.

It makes permanent eligibility for specially adaptive housing grants for certain post-9/11 veterans who have sustained severe disabilities while on Active Duty. It makes permanent VA's authority to recover the cost of care for nonservice-connected care. Finally, it makes permanent supportive services for caregivers, homeless veterans, and their families.

The permanent authorization of these programs gives certainty to VA when administering them and certainty, most importantly, to the beneficiaries who rely on them.

The bill would also require that a school offer instate tuition rates to veterans using vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits in order to be eligible for the GI Bill. This change would align instate tuition rules for veterans using the benefit with those already in law for students using the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

The bill also includes bipartisan compromise language that clarifies conflict of interest rules for VA employees and for-profit schools.

Finally, the bill would also make a number of technical and clarifying changes to strengthen important legislation that Congress has previously passed, including the VA MISSION Act, the West Los Angeles Leasing Act, and the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 3479, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3479, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2018.

S. 3479 makes sure that some of the vital programs we have in place to take care of our veterans continue past the end of the fiscal year and continue to help our veterans. Included in this bill are provisions related to healthcare, benefits, homeless veterans, and other related issues.

I am pleased to support extending programs related to support services for caregivers, childcare for certain veterans receiving healthcare, and a pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service.

It also has provisions to extend the authority related to rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses, homeless veterans reintegration programs, homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children, and providing housing assistance and counseling to homeless and at-risk veterans.

Also included are several extensions of authority for programs to help our disabled veterans, as well as the authority to enter into agreements with the National Academy of Sciences to review the research on links between diseases and dioxin exposure, a critical step in creating new Agent Orange presumptions. These provisions are crucial in helping our aging Vietnam-era veteran population.

The package also contains several technical corrections to the MISSION Act that we passed earlier this year.

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These corrections will help VA implement the law correctly, and all sides agree that they must become law quickly.

In short, this is a bill that both the majority and the minority support, and we all agree that it must be signed into law as soon as possible. I urge all my fellow Members to support its passage. I thank the chairman and his staff for working with the minority on this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend on the committee, Mr. TAKANO, for his friendship, for his support, and for his leadership.

I think it is notable and remind our colleagues and the American people that we have passed out of this Chamber 80 bipartisan bills that support our veterans, our heroes. Twenty-seven have become law of the land, delivering on our promises to those who swore an oath and made the sacrifice and served and protected us and our freedom. God bless our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support S. 3479, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, likewise, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his friendship and for the work that we have done together in a bipartisan fashion on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I am also proud of the bipartisan work that we have accomplished together on behalf of our veterans. I say God bless our veterans as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing S. 3479, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, again, we encourage all Members to support S. 3479, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3479.

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.

# PANDEMIC AND ALL-HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS AND ADVANC- ING INNOVATION ACT OF 2018

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6378) to reauthorize certain programs under the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to public health security and all-hazards preparedness and response, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6378

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

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2018”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

## TITLE I—STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY STRATEGY

Sec. 101. National Health Security Strategy.

## TITLE II—IMPROVING PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Sec. 201. Improving benchmarks and standards for preparedness and response.

Sec. 202. Amendments to preparedness and response programs.

Sec. 203. Regional health care emergency preparedness and response systems.

Sec. 204. Military and civilian partnership for trauma readiness.

Sec. 205. Public health and health care system situational awareness and biosurveillance capabilities.

Sec. 206. Strengthening and supporting the public health emergency rapid response fund.

Sec. 207. Improving all-hazards preparedness and response by public health emergency volunteers.

Sec. 208. Clarifying State liability law for volunteer health care professionals.

Sec. 209. Report on adequate national blood supply.

Sec. 210. Report on the public health preparedness and response capabilities and capacities of hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other health care facilities.

## TITLE III—REACHING ALL COMMUNITIES

Sec. 301. Strengthening and assessing the emergency response workforce.

Sec. 302. Health system infrastructure to improve preparedness and response.

Sec. 303. Considerations for at-risk individuals.

Sec. 304. Improving emergency preparedness and response considerations for children.

Sec. 305. National advisory committees on disasters.

Sec. 306. Guidance for participation in exercises and drills.

## TITLE IV—PRIORITIZING A THREAT-BASED APPROACH

Sec. 401. Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.

Sec. 402. Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise.

Sec. 403. Strategic National Stockpile.

Sec. 404. Preparing for pandemic influenza, antimicrobial resistance, and other significant threats.

Sec. 405. Reporting on the Federal Select Agent Program.

## TITLE V—INCREASING COMMUNICATION IN MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURE ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 501. Medical countermeasure budget plan.

Sec. 502. Material threat and medical countermeasure notifications.

Sec. 503. Availability of regulatory management plans.

Sec. 504. The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority and the BioShield Special Reserve Fund.

Sec. 505. Additional strategies for combating antibiotic resistance.

## TITLE VI—ADVANCING TECHNOLOGIES FOR MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES

Sec. 601. Administration of countermeasures.

Sec. 602. Updating definitions of other transactions.

Sec. 603. Medical countermeasure master files.

Sec. 604. Animal rule report.

Sec. 605. Review of the benefits of genomic engineering technologies and their potential role in national security.

Sec. 606. Report on vaccines development.

Sec. 607. Strengthening mosquito abatement for safety and health.

## TITLE VII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 701. Reauthorizations and extensions.

Sec. 702. Location of materials in the stockpile.

Sec. 703. Cybersecurity.

Sec. 704. Technical amendments.

Sec. 705. Formal strategy relating to children separated from parents and guardians as a result of zero tolerance policy.

Sec. 706. Reporting relating to children separated from parents and guardians as a result of zero tolerance policy.

Sec. 707. Technical correction.

Sec. 708. Savings clause.

## TITLE I—STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY STRATEGY

### SEC. 101. NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY STRATEGY.

Section 2802 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “2014” and inserting “2018”;

and

(ii) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: “Such National Health Security Strategy shall describe potential emergency health security threats and identify the process for achieving the preparedness goals described in subsection (b) to be prepared to identify and respond to such threats and shall be consistent with the national preparedness goal (as described in section 504(a)(19) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002), the National Incident Management System (as defined in section 501(7) of such Act), and the National Response Plan developed pursuant to section 504 of such Act, or any successor plan.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end of the second sentence the following: “, and an analysis of any changes to the evidence-based benchmarks and objec-

tive standards under sections 319C-1 and 319C-2”; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “2009” and inserting “2022”;

(ii) by inserting “(including gaps in the environmental health and animal health workforces, as applicable), describing the status of such workforce” after “gaps in such workforce”;

(iii) by striking “and identifying strategies” and inserting “identifying strategies”; and

(iv) by inserting before the period at the end “, and identifying current capabilities to meet the requirements of section 2803”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and investigation” and inserting “investigation, and related information technology activities”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and decontamination” and inserting “decontamination, relevant health care services and supplies, and transportation and disposal of medical waste”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) Response to environmental hazards.”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “including mental health” and inserting “including pharmacies, mental health facilities,”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (F), by inserting “or exposures to agents that could cause a public health emergency” before the period;

(C) in paragraph (5), by inserting “and other applicable compacts” after “Compact”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) ZOO NOTIC DISEASE, FOOD, AND AGRICULTURE.—Improving coordination among Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial entities (including through consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture) to prevent, detect, and respond to outbreaks of plant or animal disease (including zoonotic disease) that could compromise national security resulting from a deliberate attack, a naturally occurring threat, the intentional adulteration of food, or other public health threats, taking into account interactions between animal health, human health, and animals’ and humans’ shared environment as directly related to public health emergency preparedness and response capabilities, as applicable.

“(10) GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY.—Assessing current or potential health security threats from abroad to inform domestic public health preparedness and response capabilities.”.

## TITLE II—IMPROVING PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

### SEC. 201. IMPROVING BENCHMARKS AND STANDARDS FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE.

(a) EVALUATING MEASURABLE EVIDENCE-BASED BENCHMARKS AND OBJECTIVE STANDARDS.—Section 319C-1 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-3a) is amended by inserting after subsection (j) the following:

“(k) EVALUATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2018 and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the evidence-based benchmarks and objective standards required under subsection (g). Such evaluation shall be submitted to the congressional committees of jurisdiction together with the National Health Security Strategy under section 2802, at such time as such strategy is submitted.

“(2) CONTENT.—The evaluation under this paragraph shall include—