

have \$733 billion. And now, all of a sudden, \$733 billion isn't just not the right number, "it is socialism," "it is destroying the world as we know it," "we can't support it." That is ridiculous. It is a partisan argument. It is what the minority does. But it has never been what we have done on this bill.

I believe in the bipartisanship of this committee. And as angry as I was, sitting there listening to the minority leader insult all of the people who have worked to make this bill bipartisan—and you can oppose it, that is fine—but to say that we don't care about national security, that we are a bunch of socialists who don't want to work with Republicans, is a bald-faced lie.

And the last statistic on that is the amendment thing—and I love this—we made more amendments in order on this defense bill this year than ever. The Republicans actually submitted a lot fewer amendments than we did. We submitted 480, they submitted 201. And then we actually agreed with the overwhelming majority of their amendments and put them in en bloc packages. They didn't agree with the overwhelming majority of our amendments, so we didn't put them in en bloc packages, which gives them the statistic that only one of their amendments was debated.

So by working with them and agreeing with them to include 50 percent of their amendments—the most amendments ever offered—that is partisan. And I can't help but feel like they were setting us up. They didn't want to work with us. No matter how hard we tried, no matter how many hours we spent working with them, they wanted to come to the floor today and say that Democrats don't care about national security.

That is shameful. I am going to get over it. We are going to work past it—I think national security is too important to get petty about these things—and we are going to keep working together.

The good news is that we have a very good bill. It is accountable. It doesn't just give the Pentagon money. Yes, we eliminate senseless discrimination by stopping the ban on transgender troops.

I will say the other side is wrong. They have voted against the defense bill before. They voted against it in 2010 because we repealed Don't Ask, Don't Tell. They were wrong then and they are wrong now. Discrimination in the military doesn't make us safer. Mindless bigotry doesn't make us safer.

I believe strongly in this bill. The good news is, we got this, we are going to pass it, even if the other side is going to decide to play partisan politics.

Madam Chair, I urge support for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. POCAN. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of Amendment No. 439 which is

based upon legislation that I have introduced every Congress since I was elected in 2012, the "Restore Honor to Service Members Act".

This amendment will require the Department of Defense to correct the military records of service members discharged solely because of their sexual orientation. Importantly, amending service members' discharge characterizations to an honorable discharge will enable impacted individuals to access the benefits they earned and to which they would otherwise be entitled. It is a significant moment for the more than 100,000 Americans estimated to have been discharged from the military since World War II due to their sexual orientation.

I thank Chairman SMITH for his strong support of this amendment, Paul Arcangeli—Staff Director of the House Armed Services Committee—for his assistance, and Leslie Zelenko of my staff who has worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the amendment before us today.

Additionally, I would like to extend my deep gratitude to the Human Rights Campaign, the Modern Military Association of America, and VoteVets, for supporting this amendment, and Representatives KATIE HILL, CHRIS PAPPAS, MARK TAKANO, SETH MOULTON, JAMIE RASKIN, CHUY GARCÍA, ALAN LOWENTHAL, BARBARA LEE, BILL FOSTER, BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, BRIAN HIGGINS, ED CASE, PAUL TONKO, DENNY HECK, JAN SCHAKOWSKY, VERONICA ESCOBAR, ROBIN KELLY, JULIA BROWNLEY, KURT SCHRADER, STEVE COHEN, ILHAN OMAR, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, SUZAN DELBENE, ANTHONY BROWN, JOE KENNEDY, DONNA SHALALA, SUZANNE BONAMICI, and KATIE PORTER for cosponsoring. I would also like to recognize Senator BRIAN SCHATZ and Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND for championing this legislation in the Senate. Without this outpouring of support, today would not have been possible. Again, I thank them.

Madam Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support the Restore Honor amendment, and I urge a yes vote in favor of the en bloc amendment into which it has been packaged.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MCCOLLUM) having assumed the chair, Mrs. DEMINGS, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2500) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

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.

NEVER FORGET THE HEROES: JAMES ZADROGA, RAY PFEIFER, AND LUIS ALVAREZ PERMANENT AUTHORIZATION OF THE SEPTEMBER 11TH VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND ACT

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1327) to extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2090, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 1327

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 "Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act".

SEC. 2. SEPTEMBER 11TH VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND OF 2001.

(a) AUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING.—Section 410 of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by striking "\$4,600,000,000" and all that follows through "expended" and inserting "such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter through fiscal year 2092, to remain available until expended"; and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking "Upon completion of all payments under this title" and inserting "On October 1, 2092, or at such time thereafter as all funds are expended".

(b) EXTENSION OF LIMITATION ON CLAIM FILING.—Section 405(a)(3)(B) of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act (40 U.S.C. 40101 note) is amended by striking "the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of the James Zadroga 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Reauthorization Act" and inserting "October 1, 2090".

(c) COMPENSATION REDUCED BY SPECIAL MASTER DUE TO LACK OF FUNDING.—Section 406(d)(2) of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(D) COMPENSATION REDUCED BY SPECIAL MASTER DUE TO INSUFFICIENT FUNDING.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In any claim in Group B as described in section 405(a)(3)(C)(iii) in which, prior to the enactment of the Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act, the Special Master had advised the claimant that the amount of compensation has been reduced on the basis of insufficient funding, the Special Master shall, in the first fiscal year beginning after sufficient funding becomes available under such Act, pay to the claimant an amount that is, as determined by the Special Master, equal to the difference between—

"(I) the amount the claimant would have been paid under this title if sufficient funding was available to the Special Master at