

in identifying additional out-of-the-box approaches that could potentially transform the VA even further for the future.

I thank Chairman TAKANO for working with me to get this joint resolution to the House floor in a timely manner.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 80, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), my good friend and a great friend of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. There has been no more consistent member of that committee, who has numerous advocates, and I really appreciate his support of this joint resolution.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. It has been a great experience to work with Representatives ROE and TAKANO to improve the lives of our heroes.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 80, which will approve the VA secretary's request for a waiver under the MISSION Act, allowing for innovative collaborations to expand dental care for veterans.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I was proud to be a strong advocate in support of the VA MISSION Act last Congress. One of the provisions of this new law established the VA Center for Innovation for Care and Payment, allowing the VA to create pilot programs that test innovative approaches to payment and service delivery models to improve the quality of care at the VA subject to congressional approval.

Many studies suggest that regular dental care, as the good doctor said, equates to lower overall healthcare cost and better health outcomes. Earlier this year I introduced H.R. 2628, the VET CARE Act, designed to determine the potential health benefits to veterans and potential cost savings to the VA associated with periodontal care. One provision specifically authorizes the VA to provide administrative support to local providers who agree to furnish dental care at low to no cost, including information about the VA Dental Insurance Program, which provides a discounted low-cost insurance plan provided by private insurers. At a legislative hearing on my bill, the VA testified its strong support for this particular section.

Currently, the VA only provides outpatient dental services to a limited number of the disabled veteran population. Some may be eligible to sign up for the VADIP, but I believe we can do more to move this issue forward and I am glad to see that the VA agrees with me on this particular issue.

Last month, the VA finalized a rule requesting congressional approval to allow coordination of care between vet-

erans and dental providers in the community.

I applaud VA for recognizing the need to increase access and coordination of care to dental providers and educate veterans on the potential opportunities available to them in the local community.

I thank Dr. ROE for sponsoring this joint resolution, and I urge the Senate to take this up as soon as possible so that the VA can get to implementing this pilot program and better providing access to much-needed dental care our veterans have earned and deserve.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this joint resolution.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, this is a very simple resolution. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 80, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

As we welcome the new year and a new decade, I also want to take a moment to recognize my colleague and ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Dr. PHIL ROE, who has announced he will be retiring at the end of this Congress.

I salute my friend as a Vietnam veteran, as a doctor, and as a tireless advocate for veterans across the country. I have served with Dr. ROE since I was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2013, and I am proud of the bipartisan work we have done since then to ensure we honor our Nation's commitment to our veterans.

Madam Speaker, this Congress alone, we have passed 40 bills out of this committee with 36 passed out of the House and five signed into law. Despite the political rancor, which takes up much of the oxygen in Washington, D.C., this committee has set the standard for bipartisanship in this body.

In 2015, though I was still fairly new to this committee, then-Chairman ROE invited several Members to join him on a congressional delegation to Afghanistan to meet with servicemembers over the Thanksgiving holiday. He set a great example, and I have worked to replicate that example during my time as chairman. This past Thanksgiving, we did just that. I took freshmen Members to spend the holidays with those away from their families in service to our country.

□ 1645

During Dr. ROE's tenure as chairman of this committee, he was gracious in approving travel to the border so I could better understand the issues facing deported veterans. Following that trip, I, along with fellow members Ranking Member Tim Walz and Representatives VARGAS and COFFMAN, requested additional information from the Department of Homeland Security on this veteran population.

As a result, we learned that ICE did not know how many veterans it had deported and failed to follow policies already in place that could have shielded veterans from deportation.

Dr. ROE also has built on the hard work of former Ranking Member Walz and helped lay the groundwork for our success in finally passing the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. He helped me bring this long-overdue legislation across the finish line, and I trust that he will continue to work with me to ensure our true intent of the law is implemented.

Madam Speaker, we have always worked to find common areas of agreement. Because of his agreement to include key protections for whistleblowers in the last Congress' VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017, I reluctantly supported that legislation, but it is clear today that these protections are nowhere near as strong as they should be. I hope Dr. ROE will join me in pressing this administration to implement these to their true intent and help ensure whistleblowers can come forward when they need to, free from retaliation.

Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. ROE for supporting this committee's bipartisan work to preserve the power of veterans' voices and combat online disinformation campaigns perpetrated by foreign trolls and internet actors. I look forward to working with him to continue to speak with a unified voice and help prevent the targeting of veterans and servicemembers.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Ranking Member ROE on more than 11 years of hard work for the people of Tennessee and decades of service to our country.

It is my hope that, despite it being an election year, we can continue to come together and finish our work for our Nation's veterans.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in honoring Dr. ROE for his many years of service but also in passing H.J. Res. 80.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 80.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2019

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4302) to authorize public housing agencies to share certain data regarding homeless individuals and families for the provision of housing and services, and for other purposes, as amended.

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

H.R. 4302

*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 “Homeless Assistance Act of 2019”.

**SEC. 2. LIMITED AUTHORITY TO SHARE INFORMATION REGARDING HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WITH APPROPRIATE ENTITY WITHIN CONTINUUM OF CARE.**

Section 2 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) LIMITED AUTHORITY TO SHARE INFORMATION REGARDING HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WITH APPROPRIATE ENTITY WITHIN CONTINUUM OF CARE.—Notwithstanding section 904 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 3544), a public housing agency may disclose, to the collaborative applicant of the local Continuum of Care or designee of the collaborative applicant within which the jurisdiction of the public housing agency is located, information regarding individuals and families who are homeless (as such term is used in section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302)) or at risk of homelessness (as such term is used in section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 11360)), but only—

“(1) for the purpose of facilitating the identification, assessment, and linkage of housing and supportive services for such individuals and families to ensure continuity of care, to the extent allowable under State Law;

“(2) if the public housing agency takes appropriate measures to ensure that the privacy of the individuals and families is protected and that the information, including any personally identifiable information, is used only for the purpose described in paragraph (1); and

“(3) if the public housing agency takes appropriate measures to ensure clients’ information and confidentiality is protected pursuant to section 4141(c)(4) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12491(c)(4)), and any regulations promulgated pursuant to such section.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. SAN NICOLAS) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4302, the Homeless Assistance Act of 2019. This bill would allow public housing agencies to share data exclusively with local continuums of care to better coordinate housing and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness.

Homelessness has reached a crisis level in our country and continues to grow. According to HUD’s newly released point-in-time count, over 568,000 people have experienced homelessness on any given night in 2019, representing a 3 percent increase from the previous year. California, for example, saw a 21 percent increase in homelessness and the city of Los Angeles saw a 13 percent increase.

These homelessness issues, Madam Speaker, extend not just throughout our 50 United States but into our various territories as well.

Given the growing crisis, we need every tool in the toolbox to help. Sharing data between local agencies to help coordinate housing placements and services is one of those tools.

While local governments are working hard to help people experiencing homelessness, bureaucracy can get in the way. Individuals often have to resubmit the same information and paperwork to various local agencies when seeking assistance, which can delay or prevent them from getting the help they need.

H.R. 4302, the Homeless Assistance Act, would help remove this barrier so that public housing authorities and continuums of care can share data and target appropriate interventions to improve the collaboration and coordination of housing and supportive services.

This type of information sharing and coordination can ultimately help reduce the overall number of people experiencing homelessness. In fact, research from the Pew Institute demonstrated that data sharing among agencies reduced the number of veterans experiencing homelessness.

This legislation also takes a special precaution to ensure the privacy of individuals whose information is being shared, especially victims of domestic violence. It is not made public.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. SHERMAN, for introducing this critical legislation, which I know will be very helpful to local entities across the country that are doing everything they can to deal with the homelessness crisis.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to vote “yes” on this important measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4302, the Homeless Assistance Act.

Madam Speaker, homelessness is a very real problem across this country. In fact, more than half a million individuals are homeless on any given night in America.

From cities like my own of Little Rock, Arkansas, to big metropolitan areas like Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco, State and local governments have been unable to address this devastating human crisis fully.

Last year, the committee held several hearings on homelessness.

Throughout our hearings, the committee explored some of the root causes of homelessness, including restrictive local zoning policies, the harsh and punitive treatment of individuals who have no other place to turn, and the counterproductive Federal mandates on shelter providers that will close, not open, doors to people who are truly in need.

The bill we have before us today, H.R. 4302, is designed to help prevent high-risk, vulnerable populations from ever becoming homeless.

The bill allows local public housing agencies to share data and coordinate with other State and local government agencies and their local partnering service providers.

Madam Speaker, I enjoyed working with the majority on this, and I thank my friends for helping protect that private data. The personally identifiable information was of concern to the minority, and I am grateful for the majority helping improve this bill to protect that private data of these Americans struggling with homelessness.

But by sharing this data, these entities can help target and deliver supportive services to these vulnerable populations before they are displaced from their current housing situation. Sharing this data will, we hope, help localities better coordinate to prevent problems before they occur and keep more individuals in stable housing environments and off our streets.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from California, Mr. SHERMAN, the sponsor of this legislation, for his work in this area. I thank the chairwoman of the full committee, who has prioritized fighting homelessness since she was elected to Congress. I thank my friend from Guam for managing the time on this important bill.

Madam Speaker, I recommend that my colleagues support H.R. 4302, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

H.R. 4302 is important legislation that will better assist local agencies in coordinating and providing services to people experiencing homelessness.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation. I thank our colleagues on the other side of the aisle for their support as well.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 4302, the Homeless Assistance Act of 2019, which authorizes Public Housing Agencies to disclose relevant client information to local government entities and nonprofits. This legislation will enable communities to better facilitate housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and it will also require these agencies to prioritize suitable privacy measures for their clients.

This bill will address the challenge of coordination with local entities who provide housing and unique services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The Federal Privacy Act limits the ability of Public Housing

Agencies to share critical and timely information with their community partners, thus creating an unnecessary barrier for individuals seeking assistance by requiring them to resubmit the same information and paperwork to multiple entities.

The Homeless Assistance Act will allow agencies to share relevant client data with local government entities and nonprofits, solely for the purpose of expediting the identification, assessment, and linkage of individuals experiencing homelessness to housing and supportive services.

As founder and co-chair of the Congressional Homelessness Caucus, I am proud to support the advancement of resources and capabilities needed to address housing insecurity and access to affordable housing in our communities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. SAN NICOLAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4335, 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.

#### 8-K TRADING GAP ACT OF 2019

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4335) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to issue rules that prohibit officers and directors of certain companies from trading securities in anticipation of a current report, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4335

*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 “8-K Trading Gap Act of 2019”.

#### SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN TRADING IN ANTICIPATION OF A CURRENT REPORT.

The Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 10D the following:

#### “SEC. 10E. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN TRADING IN ANTICIPATION OF A CURRENT REPORT.

“(a) PROHIBITION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Commission shall issue rules that require each issuer that is subject to reporting requirements under section 13(a) or 15(d) to establish and maintain policies, controls, and procedures that are reasonably designed to prohibit executive officers and directors of the issuer from purchasing, selling, or otherwise transferring any equity security of the issuer, directly or indirectly—

“(1) with respect to an event described in sections 1 through 6 of Form 8-K, between—

“(A) the occurrence of such event; and

“(B) the filing or furnishing of a current report on Form 8-K with respect to such event; and

“(2) with respect to an event described in section 7 or 8 of Form 8-K, between—

“(A) the date on which the issuer determines that it will disclose such event; and

“(B) the filing or furnishing of a current report on Form 8-K with respect to such event.

“(b) PERMISSIBLE TRANSACTIONS.—In issuing rules under subsection (a), the Commission—

“(1) may exempt certain transactions that the Commission determines is appropriate, including those that—

“(A) occur automatically;

“(B) are made pursuant to an advance election; or

“(C) except as provided in paragraph (2), involve a purchase or sale of equity securities that satisfies the conditions under section 240.10b5-1(c) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations;

“(2) may not exempt from those rules a transaction made by an executive officer or director of an issuer under a plan that—

“(A) is described in section 240.10b5-1(c)(1)(i)(A)(3) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations; and

“(B) was adopted—

“(i) with respect to an event described in sections 1 through 6 of Form 8-K, between—

“(I) the occurrence of such event; and

“(II) the filing or furnishing of a current report on Form 8-K with respect to such event; and

“(ii) with respect to an event described in section 7 or 8 of Form 8-K, between—

“(I) the date on which the issuer determines that it will disclose such event; and

“(II) the filing or furnishing of a current report on Form 8-K with respect to such event; and

“(3) shall exempt from those rules—

“(A) issuers required to adopt and administer a code of ethics pursuant to section 270.17j-1 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, and any other issuers registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 whose investment advisers are required to adopt and administer a code of ethics pursuant to section 275.204A-1 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations; and

“(B) any event where such event is described in sections 1 through 6 of Form 8-K and the issuer has announced such event in a press release or other method of dissemination that complies with the requirements of section 101(e)(2) of Regulation FD (17 C.F.R. Part 243.101(e)(2)).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. SAN NICOLAS) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative MALONEY, the chair of the Committee on Oversight and Reform and a member of the Financial Services Committee, for authoring H.R. 4335, the 8-K Trading Gap Act, a commonsense bill that would close a loophole in our secu-

rities laws that has been exploited by corporate insiders.

Currently, public companies must disclose significant corporate events, such as bankruptcy or major cybersecurity hacks, to investors and the public on Form 8-K. However, the law gives them 4 business days after the event occurs to make this disclosure. As a result, corporate executives have the benefit of knowing material, nonpublic information for 4 days before investors and the rest of the public.

This is a problem because there is no rule prohibiting these executives from buying or selling the company's securities during this 4-day gap, and there is evidence that certain executives have done so and profited handsomely. According to a 2015 study, over a 6-year period, insiders who traded during this 4-day gap successfully earned \$105 million in above-market returns on these trades.

H.R. 4335, the 8-K Trading Gap Act, fixes this loophole by requiring public companies to put in place policies and procedures that are reasonably designed to prohibit officers and directors from trading company stock after the company has determined that a significant corporate event has occurred and before the company has filed a Form 8-K disclosing such event.

I support this commonsense fix and encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4335, the 8-K Trading Gap Act of 2019.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentlewoman from New York, Congresswoman MALONEY, and her staff for her efforts on this bill and for working with Republicans to make this a bipartisan bill.

Madam Speaker, we all agree that fraud and abuse, such as illegal insider trading, have no place in our financial system. Bad actors damage the integrity, efficiency, and effectiveness of our markets, which in turn hurts everyday investors.

□ 1700

When significant corporation events occur, such as the appointment of a new chief financial officer, public companies must disclose these events to shareholders and to the public on form 8-K. This form must be filed within 4 business days of that significant event.

It is reasonable to believe that company insiders may have knowledge of the event or material, nonpublic information is disclosed to the general public and shareholders.

Most companies and their executives strive to operate within the law. Trading within that period is clearly illegal. However, there is no SEC rule that explicitly prohibits insiders from buying or selling company stock during