

down on paper and making it happen in real life, and we were seeing huge numbers of disabled veterans not take advantage of this program either because they didn't know about it or because the process of applying for it was just too burdensome, there was too much paperwork, or it took too long.

If you have a 100 percent disability rating, there is a lot in your life you have to worry about besides doing paperwork; so Congressman WATKINS, Congressman FITZPATRICK and another great western Pennsylvanian, Congressman GUY RESCHENTHALER, and I were all looking at the same set of facts and said: We know what we need to do here. We already know these people have a 100 percent disability rating. Let's just make the loan forgiveness automatic. That was the genesis for this bill.

I want to acknowledge that the administration and President Trump did the right thing here. They noticed this same problem last year, and they began to automatically forgive these loans by executive order. The problem was that there was some legal uncertainty about exactly who had the authority to forgive the loans how fast and when.

Our understanding is that some disputes developed between OMB and the Department of Education, and it was slowing down the ability of veterans to take advantage of this thing that they are already entitled to by virtue of how much they have given to this country. So our bill was necessary to make sure that everybody involved knew they have the legal authority to forgive these loans.

By this time next year, assuming we are able to get this through the Senate and to the President's desk for his signature, that number you heard from Congressman COURTNEY of 25,000 veterans whose loans are in default and an even higher number of tens of thousands more who haven't taken advantage of that should be zero.

We are making an unequivocal statement today that, if you have given so much to this country that you have a 100 percent disability rating, you do not need to worry about your Federal student loans any longer.

It is our job to remove obstacles from the paths of people who have given so much to this country. We all believe that there is much to be done on the subject of student loans, but what we want to make sure is that these brave Americans are first in line when we do that, and that is what our bill does.

It is very common in America these days to hear people spot a veteran and say, "Thank you for your service." I think the important thing about this bill is that it is Republicans and Democrats, Congress and the President all working together to say, "Thank you for your service"—not only in words, but in actions. That is what this bill means.

I am so grateful to have had the support of so many hardworking Members

who look forward to seeing this bill pass today, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the FREED Vets Act mandates that the Department of Education automatically discharge Federal student loan debt for eligible permanently disabled veterans. The staggering student loan debt crisis harms the financial security of many Americans, including the women and men who have honorably served our Nation.

Our Nation's veterans have sacrificed immensely for our freedom and our way of life, and it is unacceptable that many disabled veterans continue to be saddled with high levels of student debt. The least we can do for them, Mr. Speaker, is to forgive the Federal student loans for those who have served our country.

The VA established a program in 2018 to forgive veteran student debt, but the barrier of going through the processes meant that only 20 percent of those eligible veterans received the assistance they deserved. This strong bipartisan bill makes student loan forgiveness for these vets automatic.

I thank my friend, Congressman LAMB from Pennsylvania, for leading this bill, and I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand with our veterans today and vote for H.R. 3598.

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

I thank the President for all he has done for our veterans. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. LAMB) as well as the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for all of their hard work in making this piece of legislation a reality.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3598.

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As my colleagues have heard today, this legislation would require the Department to continue ensuring that veterans who are totally and permanently disabled can have their student loan debt discharged without unnecessary complexity.

Think about it, without unnecessary complexity.

All this legislation does is streamline a process so those who have been totally and permanently disabled can have peace of mind and economic freedom. We owe it to those who have served our country to make this process as simple as possible, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COURTNEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) that the House sus-

pend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3598, 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DEMINGS) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Suspending the rules and:

Agreeing to H. Res. 756; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

MOVING OUR DEMOCRACY AND CONGRESSIONAL OPERATIONS TOWARDS MODERNIZATION RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 756) implementing recommendations adopted by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 13, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 93]

YEAS—395

Abraham	Amodei	Balderson
Adams	Armstrong	Banks
Aderholt	Arrington	Barr
Aguilar	Axne	Barragán
Allen	Babin	Bass
Allred	Bacon	Beatty
Amash	Baird	Bera

Bergman	Flores	Lowenthal	Schweikert	Suozzi	Walden	Courtney	King (IA)	Ruppersberger
Beyer	Foster	Lowey	Scott (VA)	Swalwell (CA)	Walker	Cox (CA)	Kinzinger	Rutherford
Bilirakis	Fox (NC)	Lucas	Scott, Austin	Takano	Walorski	Crist	Kirkpatrick	Sánchez
Bishop (GA)	Frankel	Luetkemeyer	Scott, David	Taylor	Waltz	David (KS)	Krishnamoorthi	Sarbanes
Bishop (NC)	Fulcher	Luján	Serrano	Thompson (CA)	Wasserman	Davidson (OH)	Kuster (NH)	Scanlon
Bishop (UT)	Gabbard	Luria	Sewell (AL)	Thompson (PA)	Schultz	Davis (CA)	Lamb	Schakowsky
Blumenauer	Gallagher	Lynch	Shalala	Thornberry	Waters	Davis, Danny K.	Langevin	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Gallego	Malinowski	Sherman	Timmons	Watkins	Dean	Larsen (WA)	Schneider
Bonamici	Garamendi	Maloney,	Sherrill	Tipton	Watson Coleman	DeFazio	Larson (CT)	Schrier
Bost	Garcia (IL)	Carolyn B.	Shimkus	Titus	Weber (TX)	DeGette	Lawrence	Schweikert
Boyle, Brendan	Garcia (TX)	Maloney, Sean	Simpson	Tlaib	Webster (FL)	DeLauro	Lawson (FL)	Scott (VA)
F.	Gianforte	Marchant	Sires	Tonko	Welch	DelBene	Lee (CA)	Scott, David
Brady	Gibbs	Marshall	Torres (CA)	Torres (CA)	Wenstrup	Delgado	Lesko	Serrano
Brindisi	Golden	Matsui	Torres Small	(NM)	Westerman	Demings	Levin (CA)	Shalala
Brooks (IN)	Gomez	McAdams	Trahan	Wild	Wexton	DeSaulnier	Levin (MI)	Sherman
Brown (MD)	Gonzalez (OH)	McBath	Trone	Williams	Wilson (FL)	Dingell	Lipinski	Simpson
Buchanan	Gonzalez (TX)	McCarthy	Smucker	Wilson (SC)	Wittman	Doggett	Loeb	Sires
Bucshon	Gooden	McCaul	Soto	Womack	Woodall	Doyle, Michael	Lofgren	Slotkin
Budd	Gottheimer	McClintock	Spanberger	Wright	Womack	F.	Lowenthal	Smith (NJ)
Burchett	Granger	McCollum	Spano	Yarmuth	Woodall	Engel	Lowey	Smith (WA)
Burgess	Graves (LA)	McEachin	Stanton	Young	Woodall	Escobar	Luetkemeyer	Soto
Bustos	Graves (MO)	McGovern	Staubert	Zeldin	Womack	Eshoo	Luján	Stanton
Butterfield	Green (TN)	McHenry	Staubert		Woodall	Espallat	Luria	Stanton
Byrne	Green, Al (TX)	McKinley	Stefanik		Wright	Evans	Lynch	Staubert
Calvert	Grijalva	McNerney	Steil		Yarmuth	Fletcher	Malinowski	Stefanik
Carbajal	Guest	Meeks	Steube		Young	Foster	Maloney,	Steil
Cárdenas	Guthrie	Meng	Stevens		Zeldin	Frankel	Carolyn B.	Stewart
Carson (IN)	Haaland	Meuser	Stewart			Gabbard	McBath	Suozzi
Carter (GA)	Hagedorn	Miller				Gallo	McClintock	Takano
Carter (TX)	Harder (CA)	Mitchell				Garamendi	McCollum	Taylor
Cartwright	Harris	Moolenaar	Biggs	Grothman	Roy	Garcia (IL)	McEachin	Thornberry
Case	Hartzler	Mooney (WV)	Brooks (AL)	King (IA)	Sensenbrenner	Garcia (TX)	McGovern	Titus
Casten (IL)	Hastings	Moore	Buck	Massie	Yoho	Gomez	McNerney	Tlaib
Castor (FL)	Hayes	Morelle	Gohmert	Mast		Gonzalez (OH)	Meeks	Torres (CA)
Castro (TX)	Heck	Moulton	Griffith	Norman		Granger	Moolenaar	Torres Small
Chabot	Hern, Kevin	Mucarsel-Powell				Green, Al (TX)	Moore	(NM)
Cheney	Herrera Beutler	Murphy (FL)				Haaland	Morelle	Trahan
Chu, Judy	Hice (GA)	Murphy (NC)	Brownley (CA)	Graves (GA)	Mullin	Hastings	Murphy (FL)	Trone
Cicilline	Higgins (LA)	Nadler	Clyburn	Jayapal	Palazzo	Hayes	Nadler	Turner
Cisneros	Higgins (NY)	Napolitano	Collins (GA)	Kaptur	Riggleman	Heck	Napolitano	Underwood
Clark (MA)	Hill (AR)	Neal	Fortenberry	Lewis	Rooney (FL)	Herrera Beutler	Neal	Van Drew
Clarke (NY)	Himes	Neguse	Fudge	Lieu, Ted	Speier	Higgins (NY)	Neguse	Vargas
Clay	Hollingsworth	Newhouse	Gaetz	Loudermilk	Stivers	Hill (AR)	Norcross	Veasey
Cleaver	Horn, Kendra S.	Nunes	Gosar	Meadows	Thompson (MS)	Hollingsworth	O'Halleran	Velázquez
Cline	Horsford	O'Halleran				Horsford	Ocasio-Cortez	Visclosky
Cloud	Houlihan	Ocasio-Cortez				Houlihan	Omar	Wagner
Cohen	Hoyer	Olson				Hoyer	Pallone	Walden
Cole	Hudson	Omar				Huffman	Pascrell	Waltz
Comer	Huffman	Pallone				Jackson Lee	Payne	Wasserman
Conaway	Huizenga	Palmer				Jeffries	Perlmutter	Schultz
Connolly	Hurd (TX)	Panetta				Johnson (GA)	Pingree	
Cook	Jackson Lee	Pappas				Johnson (SD)	Pocan	Waters
Cooper	Jeffries	Pascrell				Johnson (TX)	Posey	Watson Coleman
Correa	Johnson (GA)	Payne				Katko	Pressley	Webster (FL)
Costa	Johnson (LA)	Pence				Keller	Price (NC)	Welch
Courtney	Johnson (OH)	Perlmutter				Kelly (IL)	Quigley	Westerman
Cox (CA)	Johnson (SD)	Perry				Kelly (PA)	Raskin	Wild
Craig	Johnson (TX)	Peters				Kennedy	Richmond	Wilson (FL)
Crawford	Jordan	Peterson				Khanna	Rodgers (WA)	Wilson (SC)
Crenshaw	Joyce (OH)	Phillips				Kildee	Ruiz	Yarmuth
Crist	Joyce (PA)	Pingree						
Crow	Katko	Pocan						
Cuellar	Keating	Porter				Abraham	Cooper	Harder (CA)
Cunningham	Keller	Posey				Aderholt	Correa	Hartzler
Curtis	Kelly (IL)	Pressley				Aguilar	Craig	Hern, Kevin
David (KS)	Kelly (MS)	Price (NC)				Allen	Crawford	Hice (GA)
Davidson (OH)	Kelly (PA)	Quigley				Allred	Crenshaw	Higgins (LA)
Davis (CA)	Kennedy	Raskin				Amash	Crenshaw	Himes
Davis, Danny K.	Khanna	Ratcliffe				Axne	Crow	Holding
Davis, Rodney	Kildee	Reed				Babin	Cuellar	Holding
Dean	Kilmer	Reschenthaler				Baird	Cunningham	Horn, Kendra S.
DeFazio	Kim	Rice (NY)				Balderson	Curtis	Hudson
DeGette	Kind	Rice (SC)				Barr	Davis, Rodney	Huizenga
DeLauro	King (NY)	Richmond				Bergman	Diaz-Balart	Hurd (TX)
DelBene	Kinzinger	Roby				Biggs	Duncan	Johnson (LA)
Delgado	Kirkpatrick	Rodgers (WA)				Bishop (NC)	Dunn	Johnson (OH)
Demings	Krishnamoorthi	Roe, David P.				Bishop (UT)	Emmer	Jordan
DeSaulnier	Kuster (NH)	Rogers (AL)				Brady	Estes	Joyce (OH)
DesJarlais	Kustoff (TN)	Rogers (KY)				Brindisi	Ferguson	Joyce (PA)
Deutch	LaHood	Rose (NY)				Brooks (AL)	Finkenauer	Keating
Diaz-Balart	LaMalfa	Rose, John W.				Brooks (IN)	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (MS)
Dingell	Lamb	Rouda				Buchanan	Fleischmann	Kilmer
Doggett	Lamborn	Rouzer				Buck	Flores	Kim
Doyle, Michael	Langevin	Roybal-Allard				Budd	Fox (NC)	Kind
F.	Larsen (WA)	Ruiz				Burchett	Fulcher	King (NY)
Duncan	Latta	Ruppersberger				Burgess	Gallagher	Kustoff (TN)
Dunn	Lawrence	Rush				Byrne	Gianforte	LaHood
Emmer	Lawson (FL)	Rutherford				Calvert	Gibbs	LaMalfa
Engel	Lee (CA)	Ryan				Carson (IN)	Golden	Lamborn
Escobar	Lee (NV)	Sánchez				Carter (GA)	Gonzalez (TX)	Latta
Eshoo	Lee (CA)	Sarbanes				Carter (TX)	Gooden	Lee (NV)
Espallat	Lesko	Scalise				Chabot	Gottheimer	Long
Estes	Levin (CA)	Scanlon				Cheney	Graves (LA)	Loudermilk
Evans	Levin (MI)	Schakowsky				Cisneros	Graves (MO)	Lucas
Ferguson	Lipinski	Schiff				Cline	Green (TN)	Maloney, Sean
Finkenauer	Lofgren	Schneider				Cloud	Griffith	Marchant
Fitzpatrick	Long	Schrier				Cole	Grothman	Marshall
Fleischmann						Coleman	Guest	Massie
Fletcher						Connolly	Guthrie	Mast
							Hagedorn	Matsui

NAYS—13

Biggs
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Gohmert
Griffith

NOT VOTING—21

Brownley (CA)
Clyburn
Collins (GA)
Fortenberry
Fudge
Gaetz
Gosar

□ 1558

Messrs. BIGGS and YOHO changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. STEVENS, Mr. OLSON, and Ms. HOULAHAN changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUIGLEY). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 212, nays 185, answered “present” 2, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 94]

YEAS—212

Adams
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Bacon
Banks
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)

Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Comer
Cook
Costa

NAYS—185

Abraham
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amash
Axne
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cisneros
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Conaway
Connolly

Cooper
Correa
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crenshaw
Crown
Cuellar
Cunningham
Curtis
Davis, Rodney
Diaz-Balart
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Ferguson
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fox (NC)
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Golden
Gonzalez (TX)
Gooden
Gottheimer
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn

Harder (CA)
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Himes
Holding
Horn, Kendra S.
Hudson
Huizenga
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Keating
Kelly (MS)
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (NY)
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lee (NV)
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
Matsui