

there is an individual bill so it will not die as part of some other legislation. The people of this country cannot understand how we can be so bureaucratic. It is time for a change. The Corrections Day Calendar is a good calendar, and I would certainly encourage people of get behind this bill. Let us show the American people we do care about what they are concerned about, that we do care and that we can make government effective, efficient, and responsible.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my strong support for two bills we are considering today, both of which were introduced by my good friend and colleague Representative HUTCHINSON.

H.R. 1384 makes an important contribution to veterans health care by helping ensure that the VA health care system can retain the best health personnel. Unfortunately, existing VA regulations actually create a disincentive for many health care professionals to work in the VA health care system.

By restricting nurses, physician assistants, and dental auxiliaries from obtaining additional work outside the VA, we are forcing these personnel to make a choice between remaining in the VA, or leaving the system altogether. Many of these employees feel that they must obtain income from secondary sources in order to support their families and make ends meet. They should be allowed to do so, while still serving the VA. We should not risk losing talented people in the VA health care system simply because of an outdated regulation that no longer serves a useful purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1536, which will extend the VA's authority to use local salary data to determine the salary levels of nurse anesthetists. This provision is necessary to ensure that nurse anesthetists are fairly compensated for their services, in the same manner that compensation for regular nurses is determined through the Veterans Affairs Nurse Pay Act of 1990.

As a member of the Veterans' Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, I was pleased to support both of these bills at both the subcommittee and the full committee level. I want to thank Chairman HUTCHINSON for his diligent work on these legislative initiatives, and urge all my colleagues to give their full support to these two measures.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BURR].

The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and (three-fifths having voted in favor thereof) the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to include extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

#### AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN EN-GROSSMENT OF H.R. 436, EDIBLE OIL REGULATORY REFORM ACT

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk may be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to H.R. 436, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

#### EXEMPTING CERTAIN FULL-TIME HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FROM RESTRICTIONS ON REMUNERATED OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1384), to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt certain full-time health care professionals of the Department of Veterans Affairs from restrictions on remunerated outside professional activities, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1384

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

#### SECTION 1. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION.

(a) EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONALS FROM RESTRICTIONS ON REMUNERATED OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES.—Section 7423 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking out paragraph (1) and redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5), respectively;

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

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

“(c)(1) An employee of the Veterans Health Administration who is covered by subsection (a) (other than a registered nurse, a physician's assistant, or an expanded-duty dental auxiliary) may not assume responsibility for the medical care of any patient other than a patient admitted for treatment at a Department facility.

“(2) The limitation in paragraph (1) shall not apply in a case in which the employee, upon request and with the approval of the Under Secretary for Health, assumes such responsibilities to assist communities or medical practice groups to meet medical needs which would not otherwise be available. The

approval of the Under Secretary may not be for a period in excess of 180 days, which may be extended by the Under Secretary for additional periods of not to exceed 180 days.”.

(b) CROSS REFERENCE AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (d) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (a)(2), is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking out “subsection (b)(6)” and inserting in lieu thereof “subsection (b)(5)”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking out “paragraph (1)(B)” and inserting in lieu thereof “section 7421(b) of this title”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP] and the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] each will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP].

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1384.

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

There was no objection.

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

(Mr. STUMP asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1384 would exempt VA professional nurses, physicians' assistants, and expanded-duty dental auxiliaries from restrictions regarding outside professional activities for remuneration.

Mr. Speaker, the CBO has stated H.R. 1384 would have no significant impact on the Federal budget. I would like to express my appreciation to the gentleman from Mississippi, SONNY MONTGOMERY, ranking member of the full committee, the gentleman from Arizona, TIM HUTCHINSON, chairman of the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, as well as the gentleman from Texas, CHET EDWARDS, who is the ranking member of the subcommittee, for their support of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to thanking the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] for his work on this bill, I would like to be one of the first Members on this floor today to say how much I regret his decision to retire from the House at the end of this term. The gentleman from Mississippi has been a great friend for many years, and we have worked on many issues over those years. I just want him to know that I will miss both his friendship and his counsel. There will, of course, be many occasions over the next 14 months to more properly express our appreciation for his outstanding service in this House, but I would like him to know that I both regret his decision, but also wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON], chairman of the Subcommittee on Hospitals and