Gallegly
Garamendi
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Guthrie
Halvorson
Hare
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hodes
Holden
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Lamborn
Lance
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Maffei
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Ortiz
Owens
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Scalise
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Skelton
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Titus
Turner
Upton
Walden
Walz
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Wu
Young (AK)

NAYS—113

Ackerman
Baird
Baldwin
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Castor (FL)
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutch
Djou
Doyle
Edwards (MD)
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Gonzalez
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Himes
Hirono
Holt
Honda
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson, E. B.
Kennedy
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey (MA)
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McMahon
Meeks (NY)
Miller, George
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Olver
Pallone
Payne
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Richardson
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Serrano
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Stark
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—12

Akin
Andrews
Fallin
Gingrey (GA)
Hall (TX)
Hoekstra
Lewis (GA)
Neugebauer
Tiahrt
Wamp
Watson
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1617

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Messrs. JACKSON of Illinois and TONKO changed their votes from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, on July 28, 2010, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 476, 477, 478, and 479.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 476; "yes" on rollcall 477; "yes" on rollcall 478; and "yes" on rollcall 479.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 1548

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H. RES. 1548.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 5822.

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

There was no objection.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1559 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5822.

□ 1618

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5822) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes, with Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, it's a privilege for me to present the fiscal year 2011 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill. I believe this bill and the work we have done since January of 2007 is a work all of us can be very proud of.

In this time of war, we have continued our tradition of a bipartisan Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriation bill. It has honored in a meaningful way the service and sacrifice of our servicemen and -women, our veterans and their families.

With passage of this fiscal year 2011 bill, the Congress will have increased veterans health care and benefits funding by 70 percent in the last 3½ years. In addition, we have funded a new 21st century GI education bill that 510,000 servicemen and -women, veterans, and military children have used to further their education. This is an unprecedented increase in Congress' commitment to veterans.

In our book, our veterans have earned every dime of this funding. We have, among other things, increased by 10,200 the number of permanent claims processors in the VA to reduce VA case backlogs, provided an additional 145 community-based outpatient clinics, built 92 new vet centers. This bill will add 30 mobile vet centers to serve rural communities. It allowed the Veterans Health Administration to hire an additional 18,000 new doctors and nurses.

These resources mean that our veterans have better access to the health care they need and deserve, including improved access in rural areas, increased access for VA health care for low- and middle-income vets. Additionally, these resources ensure that our veterans receive, on a more timely basis, the services and benefits that they have earned.

We have also worked hard to make sure that our military knows that the Congress respects the sacrifices that they and their families have made each and every day to keep our great Nation safe. We have heard time and time again in testimony that the best support we can give our military when

they are deployed is the knowledge that their families are cared for here at home.

We have listened and funded initiatives, such as:

$2.8 billion for new military hospitals so servicemen and -women know that their families will get the best possible health care in high quality facilities;

New child care centers to serve 20,000 military children;

Over $500 million in additional funding for barracks, because Congress needs to show our volunteer forces from day one that we respect and honor their decision to serve.

The Subcommittee for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs did not accomplish this alone. There are several key leaders that have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to support our efforts.

Speaker PELOSI promised our veterans that they would be a top priority for her, and the fact is she has more than honored that promise. Her fingerprints are on every bill that has provided for our military and veterans in the past 3½ years through our subcommittee, and I thank her for her leadership in these efforts.

Also, we would not have seen the historic funding increases that I have just highlighted were it not for the dedicated support of Chairman DAVE OBEY, who, in my book, is the unsung hero of America's veterans.

I must also salute, and want to salute, the VA Committee chairman, BOB FILNER, for his strong leadership every day on behalf of America's veterans. He has truly made a difference.

Lastly, but definitely not least, our ranking member, Mr. WAMP of Tennessee, has been a vital partner in putting together this bill, and last year's bill as well. Mr. WAMP has a genuine heart for America's servicemen and -women and our veterans, and he has championed their cause. It has been a privilege to work with him, and also with ANDER CRENSHAW, who has filled in when Mr. WAMP could not be with us in some of our deliberations this year. Mr. CRENSHAW has truly been a partner every step of the way in putting together this bipartisan bill, and I thank him for that.

I also thank Mr. FARR on the Democratic side, the vice chairman of our subcommittee, who has done an outstanding job for our veterans and our military.

Madam Chair, I would like to highlight several key initiatives in this bill.

First, this bill continues an initiative begun last year to provide advance appropriation for VA medical care. This will allow the VA to invest taxpayer dollars more effectively and efficiently, and it is a top priority of America's veterans' service organizations.

Second, we provide $190 million to new troop housing for Army trainees, over 60,000 of whom are presently living in barracks that don't even meet minimum DOD standards. Our 18- and 19-year-old military recruits don't have many lobbyists running around the halls of Capitol Hill, but they deserve our Nation's respect and support for their decision to serve in our military during a time of war.

Third, we provide $200 million for a Guard and Reserve construction initiative, recognizing the vital role these troops are playing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Fourth, the bill provides $1.3 billion in emergency appropriations for military construction of facilities in support of our military operations in Afghanistan.

Fifth, recognizing the mental wounds of war can sometimes be more painful and long lasting than the physical wounds of combat, we provide $5.2 billion for the VA to continue its improvements in PTSD and mental health care for America's veterans.

Sixth, this bill includes funding for 4,048 new permanent VA claims processors in order to help veterans receive their earned benefits on a more timely basis.

The seventh initiative I would highlight, this bill also continues to open up VA medical care to more middle- and low-income veterans by 292,000, the number of veterans receiving health care since reopening enrollment in 2009.

Finally, we want to ensure that historic increases in funding for the VA are spent wisely. To increase oversight of the taxpayers' dollars, we provide an additional $6 million to VA's Office of Inspector General.

Madam Chair, I am going to skip over some of the numbers that we have in this bill, but I would be remiss if I did not thank the committee staff, very professional committee staff, a very dedicated committee staff, for their hard work and long hours during this process: the minority staff, led by Martin Delgado, Liz Dawson and Kelly Shea; and Erin Fogleman and Gilbert DMeza from Mr. WAMP's staff; and the majority staff led by Subcommittee Clerk Tim Peterson, Mary Arnold, Walter Hearne, Sue Quantius and Todd Friedman and Michelle Dominguez on my staff. They don't get public credit for the work, but the work of this bill would not have been done had it not been for their professionalism, and I thank each of them personally.

In conclusion, this bill keeps our promise to our veterans. That is what the Paralyzed Veterans of America, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, and Veterans of Foreign Wars have said. In fact, they state, ''We offer our strong support for the FY 2011 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill and we hope that the House will quickly pass this critical legislation.''

This bill sends a clear message to America's servicemen and -women, their families, and our veterans. We appreciate and respect their service and sacrifice.

Military Construction - Veterans Affairs - and Related Agencies Appropriations Act - FY 2011 (H.R. 5822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE					
Military construction, Army	3,719,419	4,078,798	4,051,512	+332,093	-27,286
Military construction, Navy and Marine Corps	3,769,003	3,879,104	3,587,376	-181,627	-291,728
Military construction, Air Force	1,450,426	1,311,385	1,276,385	-174,041	-35,000
Rescission	-37,500	---	---	+37,500	---
Total	1,412,926	1,311,385	1,276,385	-136,541	-35,000
Military construction, Defense-Wide	3,093,679	3,118,062	2,999,612	-94,067	-118,450
Rescission	-151,160	---	---	+151,160	---
Total	2,942,519	3,118,062	2,999,612	+57,093	-118,450
Total, Active components	11,843,867	12,387,349	11,914,885	+71,018	-472,464
Military construction, Army National Guard	582,056	873,664	1,020,228	+438,172	+146,564
Military construction, Air National Guard	371,226	176,986	292,386	-78,840	+115,400
Military construction, Army Reserve	431,566	318,175	358,325	-73,241	+40,150
Military construction, Navy Reserve	125,874	61,557	91,557	-34,317	+30,000
Military construction, Air Force Reserve	112,269	7,832	48,182	-64,087	+40,350
Total, Reserve components	1,622,991	1,438,214	1,810,678	+187,687	+372,464
Total, Military construction	13,466,858	13,825,563	13,725,563	+258,705	-100,000
Appropriations	(13,655,518)	(13,825,563)	(13,725,563)	(+70,045)	(-100,000)
Rescissions	(-188,660)	---	---	(+188,660)	---
Emergency appropriations	---	---	---	---	---
North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program	197,414	258,884	258,884	+61,470	---
Family housing construction, Army	273,236	92,369	92,369	-180,867	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Army	523,418	518,140	518,140	-5,278	---
Family housing construction, Navy and Marine Corps	146,569	186,444	186,444	+39,875	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps	368,540	366,346	366,346	-2,194	---
Family housing construction, Air Force	66,101	78,025	78,025	+11,924	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Air Force	502,936	513,792	513,792	+10,856	---
Family housing construction, Defense-Wide	2,859	---	---	-2,859	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Defense-Wide	49,214	50,464	50,464	+1,250	---
Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund	2,600	1,096	1,096	-1,504	---
Homeowners assistance fund	323,225	16,515	16,515	-306,710	---
Total, Family housing	2,258,698	1,823,191	1,823,191	-435,507	---
Appropriations	(2,258,698)	(1,823,191)	(1,823,191)	(-435,507)	---
Rescissions	---	---	---	---	---
Emergency appropriations	---	---	---	---	---
Chemical demilitarization construction, Defense-Wide	151,541	124,971	124,971	-26,570	---
Base realignment and closure:					
Base realignment and closure account, 1990	496,768	360,474	460,474	-36,294	+100,000
Base realignment and closure account, 2005	7,455,498	2,354,285	2,354,285	-5,101,213	---
Total	7,455,498	2,354,285	2,354,285	-5,101,213	---
Total, Base realignment and closure	7,952,266	2,714,759	2,814,759	-5,137,507	+100,000
General Reductions (Sec. 129)					
Military Construction, Army	-230,000	---	---	+230,000	---
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps	-235,000	---	---	+235,000	---
Military Construction, Air Force	-64,091	---	---	+64,091	---

Military Construction - Veterans Affairs - and Related Agencies Appropriations Act - FY 2011 (H.R. 5822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
General Rescissions (Sec. 130)					
Military Construction, Army	-33,000	---	---	+33,000	---
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps	-51,468	---	---	+51,468	---
Military Construction, Defense-Wide	-93,268	---	---	+93,268	---
Military Construction, Army National Guard	-33,000	---	---	+33,000	---
Military Construction, Air National Guard	-7,000	---	---	+7,000	---
Total, title I	23,279,950	18,747,368	18,747,368	-4,532,582	---
Appropriations	(23,686,346)	(18,747,368)	(18,747,368)	(-4,938,978)	---
Rescissions	(-406,396)	---	---	(+406,396)	---
Emergency appropriations	---	---	---	---	---
TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS					
Veterans Benefits Administration					
Compensation and pensions	47,396,106	53,492,234	53,492,234	+6,096,128	---
Readjustment benefits	9,232,369	10,440,245	10,440,245	+1,207,876	---
Veterans insurance and indemnities	49,288	62,589	62,589	+13,301	---
Veterans housing benefit program fund (indefinite)	23,553	19,078	19,078	-4,475	---
(Limitation on direct loans)	(500)	(500)	(500)	---	---
Credit subsidy	-133,000	-165,000	-165,000	-32,000	---
Administrative expenses	165,082	163,646	163,646	-1,436	---
Guaranteed Transitional Housing Loans for Homeless Veterans	(750)	---	---	(-750)	---
Vocational rehabilitation loans program account	29	48	48	+19	---
(Limitation on direct loans)	(2,298)	(3,042)	(3,042)	(+744)	---
Administrative expenses	328	337	337	+9	---
Native American veteran housing loan program account	664	707	707	+43	---
Total, Veterans Benefits Administration	56,734,419	64,013,884	64,013,884	+7,279,465	---
Veterans Health Administration					
Medical services	34,707,500	---	---	-34,707,500	---
Advance from prior year	---	(37,136,000)	(37,136,000)	(+37,136,000)	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2012	37,136,000	39,649,985	39,649,985	+2,513,985	---
Subtotal	71,843,500	39,649,985	39,649,985	-32,193,515	---
Medical support and compliance	4,930,000	---	---	-4,930,000	---
Advance from prior year	---	(5,307,000)	(5,307,000)	(+5,307,000)	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2012	5,307,000	5,535,000	5,535,000	+228,000	---
Subtotal	10,237,000	5,535,000	5,535,000	-4,702,000	---
Medical facilities	4,859,000	---	---	-4,859,000	---
Advance from prior year	---	(5,740,000)	(5,740,000)	(+5,740,000)	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2012	5,740,000	5,426,000	5,426,000	-314,000	---
Subtotal	10,599,000	5,426,000	5,426,000	-5,173,000	---
Medical and prosthetic research	581,000	590,000	590,000	+9,000	---
Medical care cost recovery collections:					
Offsetting collections	-2,954,000	-3,393,000	-3,393,000	-439,000	---
Appropriations (indefinite)	2,954,000	3,393,000	3,393,000	+439,000	---
Total, Veterans Health Administration	93,260,500	51,200,985	51,200,985	-42,059,515	---
Appropriations	(45,077,500)	(590,000)	(590,000)	(-44,487,500)	---
Emergency appropriations	---	---	---	---	---
Advance from prior year	---	(48,183,000)	(48,183,000)	(+48,183,000)	---
Advance appropriations, FY 2012	(48,183,000)	(50,610,985)	(50,610,985)	(+2,427,985)	---

Military Construction - Veterans Affairs - and Related Agencies Appropriations Act - FY 2011 (H.R. 5822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
National Cemetery Administration					
National Cemetery Administration	250,000	250,504	259,004	+9,004	+8,500
Departmental Administration					
General operating expenses	2,086,707	2,588,389	2,601,389	+514,682	+13,000
Information technology systems	3,307,000	3,307,000	3,222,000	-85,000	-85,000
Office of Inspector General	109,000	109,367	115,367	+6,367	+6,000
Construction, major projects	1,194,000	1,151,036	1,166,036	-27,964	+15,000
Construction, minor projects	703,000	467,700	507,700	-195,300	+40,000
Grants for construction of State extended care facilities	100,000	85,000	85,000	-15,000	---
Grants for the construction of State veterans cemeteries	46,000	46,000	46,000	---	---
Total, Departmental Administration	7,545,707	7,754,492	7,743,492	+197,785	-11,000
Appropriations	(7,545,707)	(7,754,492)	(7,743,492)	(+197,785)	(-11,000)
Emergency appropriations	---	---	---	---	---
Administrative Provision - GOE	---	---	23,584	+23,584	+23,584
Total, title II	157,790,626	123,219,865	123,240,949	-34,549,677	+21,084
Appropriations	(109,607,626)	(72,608,880)	(72,629,964)	(-36,977,662)	(+21,084)
Emergency appropriations	---	---	---	---	---
Advance from prior year	---	(48,183,000)	(48,183,000)	(+48,183,000)	---
Advance appropriations, FY 2012	(48,183,000)	(50,610,985)	(50,610,985)	(+2,427,985)	---
(Limitation on direct loans)	(2,798)	(3,542)	(3,542)	(+744)	---
Discretionary	(101,222,310)	(59,370,719)	(59,391,803)	(-41,830,507)	(+21,084)
Mandatory	(56,568,316)	(63,849,146)	(63,849,146)	(+7,280,830)	---
TITLE III - RELATED AGENCIES					
American Battle Monuments Commission					
Salaries and expenses	62,675	64,200	65,667	+2,992	+1,467
Foreign currency fluctuations account	17,100	20,200	20,200	+3,100	---
Total, American Battle Monuments Commission	79,775	84,400	85,867	+6,092	+1,467
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims					
Salaries and expenses	27,115	90,147	90,147	+63,032	---
Department of Defense - Civil					
Cemeterial Expenses, Army					
Salaries and expenses	39,850	38,100	39,600	-250	+1,500
Armed Forces Retirement Home					
Operation and maintenance	62,000	69,200	69,200	+7,200	---
Capital program	72,000	2,000	2,000	-70,000	---
Total, Armed Forces Retirement Home	134,000	71,200	71,200	-62,800	---
Total, title III	280,740	283,847	286,814	+6,074	+2,967
(By transfer)	---	---	---	---	---

Military Construction - Veterans Affairs - and Related Agencies Appropriations Act - FY 2011 (H.R. 5822)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE IV - OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS					
Military Construction, Army	924,484	929,996	---	-924,484	-929,996
Military Construction, Army (Emergency)	---	---	929,996	+929,996	+929,996
Military Construction, Air Force	474,500	280,506	---	-474,500	-280,506
Military Construction, Air Force (Emergency)	---	---	280,504	+280,504	+280,504
Military Construction, Defense-Wide	---	46,500	---	---	-46,500
Military Construction, Defense-Wide (Emergency)	---	---	46,500	+46,500	+46,500
Total, title IV	1,398,984	1,257,002	1,257,000	-141,984	-2
TITLE V - GENERAL PROVISIONS					
General operating expenses	---	23,584	---	---	-23,584
Total, title V	---	23,584	---	---	-23,584
Grand total	182,750,300	143,531,666	143,532,131	-39,218,169	+465
Appropriations	(133,574,712)	(91,663,679)	(91,664,146)	(-41,910,566)	(+467)
Rescissions	(-406,396)	---	---	(+406,396)	---
Emergency appropriations	---	---	(1,257,000)	(+1,257,000)	(+1,257,000)
Advance from prior year	---	(48,183,000)	(48,183,000)	(+48,183,000)	---
Advance appropriations, FY 2012	(48,183,000)	(50,610,985)	(50,610,985)	(+2,427,985)	---
Overseas contingency operations	(1,398,984)	(1,257,002)	---	(-1,398,984)	(-1,257,002)
(By transfer)	---	---	---	---	---
(Limitation on direct loans)	(2,798)	(3,542)	(3,542)	(+744)	---

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First let me just say that I rise in support of this appropriations bill. It's the first appropriations bill that we will bring to the floor today, and I think it's an excellent bill.

I would like to start by thanking Chairman EDWARDS, not only for his leadership, but for the example that he sets to make every member of the subcommittee feel like they are valued. He has treated everyone with a sense of fairness. It has been an open process, bipartisan process, and we appreciate that very much. I think because of that atmosphere that everything we do in this subcommittee is really geared to make sure that we put the best interests of the men and women in uniform first, and put their families first, the veterans, and those fallen heroes.

I want to say a word about Ranking Member ZACH WAMP. I am here in his stead. He is back home in Tennessee trying to represent the people of Tennessee in a different way, as the Governor of that State. But I can tell you that even though he is not here, as Mr. EDWARDS mentioned, he has been very much a part of this process. I think this bill is a reflection of his dedication, his commitment to the men and women in uniform. And I know that I've heard Mr. WAMP say on occasion that serving as the ranking member of this subcommittee has been the highest achievement of his career here in the House of Representatives, and so we wish him well as he leaves.

I want to also say a word about Mr. YOUNG. He's not here today, but he has been a long-time member of this subcommittee. I think Chairman EDWARDS agrees that he has been a great champion of the men and women in uniform. He and his wife, Beverly, are often visitors at our military hospitals to see the folks that have come back, the wounded warriors. If he were here, I'm sure he would stand up and say that he believes this is a very good bipartisan bill. He is recovering from some surgery himself, so I know we all wish him well in this committee.

Mr. EDWARDS has done a great job of talking about kind of an overview of what goes on here, and so I don't want to repeat that. I certainly want to echo his words of congratulations to the staff; we thank everyone for their hard work. But I want to mention a couple of items that were brought up that were concerns that, because of the open process, because of the bipartisan nature in our subcommittee markup, members had a chance to talk about some issues of concern.

One was, and Mr. EDWARDS mentioned that, we found that while we were adding dollars to most of the programs in the VA, the Inspector General was kind of held to last year's level. We all felt like—it was a bipartisan agreement—that the Inspector General has so much to offer in terms of oversight, in terms of accountability, by doing audits, that they ought to have additional resources, and so we added $6 million there.

Another concern that was raised at the subcommittee level was the VA had decided that they wanted to reduce the number of claims processors they had in the new GI bill as part of the veterans affairs. You all remember when we passed that updated version of the GI bill and added benefits that are so important to our veterans as they come back, and yet we found out that last year there had been quite a bit of problems just because of the increased demand on those claims processors. We thought it would be a bad idea to reduce the number of folks that were processing those claims when last year this chaos was created—and my office got calls, I know other Members got calls because the tuition payments weren't being made in a timely fashion, the claims weren't being processed; in fact, sometimes the checks were written by hand and delivered without much accountability.

And so while we applaud the VA for saying we want to try to do more with less, we thought right now that would be penny wise and pound foolish. And so we added back those claims processors. We want to make sure that we get everything done on time. Next year, they're actually estimating the increase will be 31 percent. There will be over 2.2 million claims made under those new GI benefits, and we want to make sure that they are paid on time. So we added back those individuals.

And, finally, there was a concern about Arlington National Cemetery. I think a lot of people read about some of the horror stories that went on there. We found out that the management was really a little bit behind in terms of modern day. So the Secretary of the Army, John McHugh, acted very quickly and very forcefully. He set up some guidelines to improve what's going on at Arlington National Cemetery. Mr. YOUNG offered some report language to make sure that the members of this subcommittee will have a chance to exercise appropriate oversight.

So those were areas of concern that I think were addressed because of this open process, and those amendments were adopted unanimously on a bipartisan basis.

I would say from the big-picture standpoint, as Mr. EDWARDS has talked about, I came to Congress primarily because I believed that the number one responsibility of the Federal Government is to protect American lives, and I still believe that today. But what I found when I was assigned to this subcommittee was that we also have a sacred responsibility to make sure that the men and women who wear the uniform are treated with respect, that they have adequate housing, and that they have the quality of life they so richly deserve.

This bill continues the commitment that we've made there. Sometimes when you think about military construction projects, you think about a new hangar or a new dock or a ship or a landing strip or a wharf; but as Mr. EDWARDS pointed out, housing is so very vital. We've done a great job, and we continue that commitment. Whether it's a barracks or whether it's married housing, we want to have the housing we would want our sons and daughters to live in, and we're making great progress in that area.

I think we all agree we've got the best trained and the most equipped military in the world, and we've worked hard to do that. But we are also beginning to make sure that when people come back that have been under some stress, under unique situations, that they have adequate counseling, that they have those kinds of programs that are so very important; and I think this bill continues that commitment.

And just finally I would say there are a couple of important projects that are funded this year as part of the administration's budget deal with my district in northeast Florida. There is a naval station, Mayport, that the Navy has decided to make that home port for a nuclear carrier; and so last year there was money to begin dredging, to begin wharf upgrades. This year, there is $2 million for planning and design to continue that process. I worked with the chief of naval operations—in fact, spoke with him just about a month ago—and the Navy is still very committed, because of national security, to make sure that we have the ability to disperse our assets, to make sure we have a backup nuclear maintenance facility, and I thank the subcommittee and the members for their support.

Also in northeast Florida, the Marines have a project called Blount Island, where a great deal of the materiel goes back and forth through that port to the Middle East. There is money to upgrade and make that more of a world-class facility.

So this is a great bill that I think we can all be proud of. And it really is the result of the leadership of Mr. EDWARDS and his hard work, the leadership of Mr. WAMP and his hard work and, actually, the hard work of every member of this subcommittee. And I think because of that, we have a bill that truly honors our American heroes. It speaks to the people that defend us today, it speaks to those who have returned as veterans, and also to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. And so for those reasons, Madam Chair, I urge everyone to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, before introducing Chairman OBEY, I would like to join with my friend and colleague, Mr. CRENSHAW, in saluting Mr. YOUNG of Florida. While he is not here because of an illness today, he has spent a lifetime of service and commitment to our servicemen

and women, our veterans and their families.

I also see Mr. LEWIS on the floor, the ranking member of the full committee, the former chairman of the full committee, the former chairman of the Defense Appropriations Committee. I thank Mr. LEWIS also for working on this bill and for his leadership throughout his long career here in Congress in support of our servicemen and -women.

Madam Chair, it is one of two honors of my lifetime to recognize and introduce Chairman DAVE OBEY. I must say that in the last 3½ years, this Congress has increased veterans funding by more than any 3½-year period in history. That would not have happened had it not been for the allocations and the personal leadership of Chairman DAVE OBEY. And while others of us at the subcommittee level or the VA authorizing subcommittee level have been the ones sometimes recognized by veterans groups for our work over these past 3½ years, it has been Chairman OBEY's leadership and partnership with Speaker PELOSI behind the scenes that have made all of these new programs, including the funding of the GI bill, that has helped over 500,000 servicemen and -women and veterans and their families.

It's been Mr. OBEY's leadership that has truly made a difference in this process. Of his many great legacies of his service to this country and Congress, I hope he will always be remembered as a true champion of America's veterans.

Madam Chair, I yield 5 minutes to Chairman OBEY.

□ 1640

Mr. OBEY. I thank the gentleman for the time. I thank him for his overblown words.

I do want to extend my best wishes to BILL YOUNG, who is one of the most loved Members of this House and one of the most respected.

I also want to congratulate the gentleman from Texas for the superb job he has done in putting this bill together. It is a well-balanced bill, and everyone understands the gentleman's convictions and his passionate desire to defend the interests of American veterans.

Madam Chair, there are more than 6 million veterans and their families who depend on the Department of Veterans Affairs for medical care, for disability payments, and education benefits, and this bill represents our obligation to them. It builds on our actions of the last 2 years, which have provided the most significant enlargement of education benefits for veterans since the passage of the original GI Bill of Rights.

One of the bill's highest priorities is to help cut through the bureaucracy that disabled veterans face over their claims. They shouldn't have to wait months and months for their paperwork to be processed before receiving the benefits owed to them. The bill provides for an additional 4,000 permanent claims processors—a 25 percent increase to work through more than 1 million disability claims.

These resources are especially needed now that the Vietnam veterans will be eligible to file claims for disabilities caused by Agent Orange. Veterans' medical care is the largest component of the bill. According to the VA, more than 6.1 million patients will be treated in 2011, including nearly 440,000 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Now, many people think of veterans' health care as being solely focused on physical injuries. We understand now, better than ever, how combat threatens soldiers' mental health as well. We owe it to every one of them to address not only their physical wounds but also the mental and emotional consequences of war. This bill includes added resources for services to veterans suffering from traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and other mental conditions. Full access to this care remains a problem for some veterans, for seeing the right specialist can mean expensive trips and hours and hours in the car.

In Northern Wisconsin, for instance, there are tens of thousands of veterans who cannot regularly see counselors because there aren't vet centers anywhere near their homes. This bill makes critical investments to meet our obligations to them.

This bill also addresses the high rate of veterans' homelessness. On any given night last year, 107,000 veterans were homeless. That is shameful. With the goal of ending veterans' homelessness in 5 years, this bill matches the budget request for VA homeless assistance grants and supportive services for veterans and their families who need them.

At the end of the day, it is important to remember that this bill is not just about dollars and programs. It is about our duty to American veterans—to respect their service and sacrifice, not only with flowery words on the Fourth of July, but also with actions like this, on days like this, that are less noticed but every bit as important.

I congratulate the subcommittee for the bill that they have produced.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the vice chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), who has been a champion on this committee for veterans, our troops, their families, and for all of the many issues involved in this subcommittee's affairs.

Mr. FARR. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

To our current acting ranking member, Mr. CRENSHAW, thank you very much for giving me this moment to speak on this very important bill.

Madam Chair, yesterday, the House of Representatives had a very important vote, a very controversial vote here. The vote was on funding the war effort in Afghanistan. Those votes ought to be controversial—whether we go to war, where we go to war, and how long the mission is going to take. Those ought to be votes that you can cast for and against. Yet there is one bill you can't vote against, and that is the bill that supports the troops in their residence, in their training and back here at home—the quality of life that we provide defense personnel, military personnel.

This is the bill that funds the child care centers. This is the bill that creates the housing for men and women in uniform, who voluntarily join the service. This is the bill that creates the clinics and the hospitals, the support systems—any kind of community of support—and a special one for military personnel needs. So one can vote against the war, but one cannot vote against the support here at home.

This bill has bipartisan support because it is interested in improving the quality of life of military personnel, who voluntarily come into the military. Everybody who passes through the Department of Defense ends up becoming a veteran. You cannot be a veteran without having served in active duty.

This committee also supports the continuum of care. We ought not to have a silo of Defense Department quality of care and a separate silo for veterans. We are making it seamless. We are making it so that, when you enroll in the Department of Defense, you also automatically enroll in the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Department of Veterans Affairs takes care of you for the rest of your life. We owe it to any man or woman who has ever served in the military to provide them the promises that were made. These promises were made, but the quality of care until now has not been that great. It has changed.

Please support this appropriations bill as the real ''support our troops'' bill.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to a very important member of our Appropriations subcommittee, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR), who has been a real champion for our vets and our troops.

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Chair, I want to take a moment to recognize my colleagues.

Chairman EDWARDS has been a great champion of our veterans since his tenure here in Congress began. Also, I thank Ranking Member WAMP and Mr. CRENSHAW for their valiant efforts in putting this bill together.

I don't think that I have had a greater honor than to serve on a committee of this type where we all work together in a bipartisan manner. Chairman EDWARDS, Ranking Member WAMP, Mr.

CRENSHAW—all of us—have worked very hard for veterans and their families. All 17.5 million living veterans in the United States should applaud you for your diligent work as you fight for those who provide us freedom.

Madam Chair, as the chairman mentioned, it is important to recognize the bipartisanship and fiscal responsibility of this bill. In completing BRAC 2005, the subcommittee was able to reduce the overall spending of this bill by three-quarters of a billion dollars. The bill includes a total of $57 billion, which is an increase of nearly $4 billion for veterans' medical care, disability, and educational benefits. Veterans in Colorado are a major winner in this bill again. Thanks to the President and to the subcommittee for their continued support of a new VA medical center in Denver, Colorado.

I want to thank all of those Members who continue to fight the good fight for our veterans and military personnel.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Chair, I yield myself 1 minute.

I would ask Chairman EDWARDS if he would engage in a brief colloquy.

Mr. EDWARDS, it is my understanding that the committee authorized a study in March to review various portions of the Veterans Health Administration. As I understand it, the committee has just received the report. Once the report has been analyzed by the committee staff, I believe it would be important, as we move this veterans' appropriations bill forward, that we use the recommendations in the report, if feasible, to provide better oversight and better transparency to the health care spending at the VA.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CRENSHAW. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I want to thank the gentleman both for the points he is making now and also for his focus on oversight.

As we have provided these historic increases in veterans' funding over the last several years, and as we have been working together on a bipartisan basis, I think it is also very important that we see that those tax dollars are spent wisely, efficiently, and effectively.

I have been concerned for some time that the large increases we have provided the VA health care system have not always made their way down to the individual hospitals on a very rapid basis as quickly as we would like.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I yield myself 1 additional minute.

Mr. EDWARDS, please continue.

□ 1650

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Because of that and our work together, we asked the S&I staff to do this study to help us understand the process the Department's using in distributing money and to highlight areas where we can exert more oversight, if necessary, to ensure the efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

The report just completed is quite large, and in the coming weeks, staff on both sides of the aisle will be evaluating it to determine how its recommendations can be incorporated into our final bill and report. And I certainly look forward to working with the gentleman on examining that report and seeing how we can incorporate some of its ideas into the final conference report on this bill.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) for the purpose of my entering into a colloquy with him.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Chairman, I want to thank the chairman for his and his committee's work on this bill.

As we all know, there are veterans across the country, including thousands in my district, who are forced to drive long distances to receive the medical care they earned through their service to the Nation. But I understand that included in this bill is $15 million for the VA Health Care Center Advance Planning account, which would go toward new VA Health Care Centers, which could help these veterans.

I wonder if the chairman wouldn't mind going into some detail on this item.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I want to thank the gentleman for his hard work on behalf of our veterans. He's been a leader on these issues. And thanks to you, Mr. DONNELLY, this bill directs $15 million that you referenced to planning the VA health care centers across the country. It's an innovative way to make more services available to veterans locally.

I understand that among the locations due to have a new VA health care center is South Bend, in the gentleman's district. And South Bend's demonstrated need for such an expansion of VA health care services was noted by the committee in its report language.

Furthermore, the committee expects that this account will be utilized by the VA as soon as possible.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, thank you so much for your leadership.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), who has worked very hard on behalf of our veterans and troops.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, thank you and the committee for bringing this bill before us.

There's $13 billion in this legislation for construction. That's more in the last 4 years combined than any 4-year period since the 1940s. And though that will mean transformational things for our veterans, I want to just briefly highlight this afternoon what it will mean for the people that will do that work.

We've lost 2 million construction jobs in this recession and the Associated General Contractors of America estimate that almost 400,000 construction jobs could be created just by this bill alone. That's good news for jobs in this country. But we can have even better news if we make sure that the materials used to build those buildings are bought here in America as well.

Many of us have been working very hard on reinforcing our Buy America law. This construction funding presents us with a unique opportunity to not only serve our veterans, not only honor our commitment to them, but also grow the types of jobs in construction and construction materials that this economy badly needs.

I'm so thankful to the chairman for all of his work bringing this bill to the floor and what it will mean for veterans and for jobs.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I continue to reserve.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, there are several other speakers on our side of the aisle who said they would like to speak, but perhaps we have progressed more quickly than they thought.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ), a member of the Appropriations Committee who has been vocal in his strong support of our veterans and troops.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Chair, I just wanted to take this opportunity to come down to the House floor and congratulate our chairman, Congressman CHET EDWARDS, on his efforts in this area. I feel really elated in terms of the amount of resources that we have been able to put for our veterans.

Having been on the Veterans' Committee and on the appropriations side and the authorizing side, I had the opportunity to witness the situation that we suffered with when we had to do the copayments and require our veterans to come up and pay copayments. We cut Category 8 veterans from that. In addition, not only that, but we asked them to pay for additional fees for services.

And in the last 3 years, it's been a turnaround, and this bill provides resources there for the first time that allow an opportunity for us to be able to look at our infrastructure and improve on those areas that are out there.

We have a good number of hospitals out there that are lacking on infrastructure, and I'm hoping that in the future we continue to do this. This bill puts us on the right track to provide additional resources, and I want to thank him, personally, also.

I know that it also has been able to put additional resources and creating additional polytrauma centers. We have four in the Nation. Now we have a fifth in Texas, and so I want to thank him personally, there in San Antonio,

for the polytrauma center that has had the resources to be able to begin to provide those needed items that our veterans need.

I also want to just thank him for putting the resources there and just advertise the fact that, just in the last year and a half, we have over 240,000 veterans that are now taking advantage of the GI Bill. And this is a tremendous bill. We expect to have over half a million veterans participating in the GI bill. And that, in the future, will show a tremendous amount of positiveness when those individuals get their bachelor's, their master's, and their doctorate degrees as they move forward. In addition to that bill, it also allows their kids and their spouses to take advantage.

So congratulations on the great work that you have been doing, Chairman.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HALL), who is a leading voice of America's veterans on the Veterans' Affairs Authorizing Committee.

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Chair, on behalf of the veterans of the Hudson Valley of New York and all those who have served our country in uniform, I'm strongly supportive of the bill which we're considering today. It's a solemn contract that we who do not serve in uniform—we have enjoyed the benefits of their sacrifice and their personal risk and their families doing without them—need to uphold our part of the bargain, which is to take care of them anytime after their return. And, therefore, I think it's really critical that we pass this bill to fund not just military construction but veterans facilities.

We don't know yet what the cost will be from the conflicts we're currently engaged in. Unfortunately, our country has a habit of deciding to go into a conflict without an educated, informed figure being given out, or a guess even that's very accurate as to what the lifetime costs may be for care of the veterans created by that conflict, but it's essential that we protect those veterans facilities that we have and improve them as needed, construct new ones as needed.

And I am concerned, first of all, with passing the underlying bill. But secondly, I'm also concerned with some amendments that have been offered to this bill, which I will speak to later when the amendments are being considered, which move money from what's considered to be, or what's called minor construction and, in particular, from an urgent care center and minor construction, and to other things which sound and are good in and of themselves.

□ 1700

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY). And as he approaches the well, let me just thank him. This will be his last year to be in the House, a member of this committee. And he has been an inspiration to veterans throughout America and to every member of our subcommittee on both sides of the aisle in his championing the cause of mental health care services and other services for veterans, care for our homeless veterans. I thank the gentleman. It will be a legacy that will live on for many decades to come.

Mr. KENNEDY. I thank the chairman and my ranking member for all the work they did to make this a fine veterans appropriations bill.

Ladies and gentlemen, if our soldiers were caught behind enemy lines, we would think nothing of mounting the full might of military power to go in and retrieve those members of our military. In fact, every American would wrap yellow ribbons around their trees in solidarity in order that we may set those prisoners of war free, in order that we may bring back those hostages of the Taliban, or the terrorists, or whomever may have captured them.

But ladies and gentlemen, something is going on in this country, something very tragic. Our military, our Veterans Affairs, everybody talks a good game, talks a very good game of patriotism when it comes to saying we're going to stand by our guardians of freedom, while those very guardians of freedom aren't free themselves. They may have come home in body, but they have not come home, many of them, in mind.

They are suffering from the signature wound of this war. What is that? Traumatic brain injury. What is that? Posttraumatic stress disorder. My colleagues, these veterans in essence are being held hostage. They're being held hostage all over this great country. They are in essence prisoners of war. They are prisoners of this war, prisoners of traumatic brain injury and its symptoms, its many symptoms: loss of memory, loss of cognitive ability, and the symptoms that ensue.

Many of them self-medicate. Many of them isolate. Why? Because these injuries are invisible, invisible to the naked eye, but not invisible to anybody who loves them. These are real injuries. They are injuries that can turn their lives upside down. All of the commanders in DOD say they are doing something about it. I'm not seeing it. In fact, I was briefed a year ago on some neuroscience research of an off-label drug that's used to treat bleeding in the intestines, to reduce swelling. They thought it might help reduce swelling of a concussion and the onset of swelling in the brain. Guess what? It proved to be effective, initial findings showed.

If this were the battle of AIDS, that drug would have been in the field helping our soldiers. But no, we don't have the urgency we have with AIDS. Somehow we don't have the urgency when it comes to our veterans and the signature of this war wound, TBI and PTSD, that we bring when it comes to something like AIDS. We don't set aside parochial concerns. We don't set aside partisan. We don't set aside the value of someone's proprietary research concerns.

When are we going to make our special interest the veteran? There's nothing dirty about special interests so long as we make it the right one. When are we going to agree that there is one special interest in this town that there should be no disagreement about, and that's the veteran. When are we going to say with our actions, not just our words, that the veteran is the one who counts? When are we going to say we're going to release them from terror, the terror and tyranny of their bondage, of their disability because they served us?

Ladies and gentlemen, this study showed that if you reduce the swelling in the brain you can reduce the longer-term impact.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. KENNEDY. The blood-brain barrier reduces the ability for a bruise that is absorbed by the regular body to be absorbed by the brain. This drug helped reduce the swelling. The DOD has an obligation to implement it. They are not. They should. And they ought to.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Chair, I think we have heard today what a well-balanced bill this is, as we said at the beginning. And I think it demonstrates—it's an example of what happens when people come together in an open process, in a fair process, in a bipartisan process. I think this bill demonstrates the work that we can do when we work together. So again, I am honored to be part of this process, to work with the chairman and the ranking member.

I urge everyone to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I want to finish by thanking Mr. CRENSHAW for, again, his leadership on this and working together importantly on so many parts of this bill, and doing so in a bipartisan manner. We thanked a lot of people in this process. It's been a work of good faith on both sides of the aisle.

I always want to save the best for the last in thanking our veterans service organizations for their partnership in putting together this legislation.

I add two letters, one from the DAV, AMVETS, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars; another from the president of the National Guard Association of the United States, in support of this legislation.

THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET,
July 27, 2010.

Hon. CHET EDWARDS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, House Committee on Appropriations, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN EDWARDS: On behalf of the co-authors of the Independent Budget, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your unwavering support for our nation's sick and disabled veterans, as well as all of the men and women who have so honorably served this country. We appreciate your efforts as Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs to achieve an excellent funding level for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) once again this year. Through your leadership, the VA will receive another significant funding increase for FY 2011.

More importantly, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill also includes approximately $50.6 billion in advance appropriations for the VA medical care accounts—Medical Services, Medical Support and Compliance, and Medical Facilities—for FY 2012. By providing the VA with an advance appropriation for FY 2012, the VA will once again be able to better plan for hiring critical new staff and addressing demand on the health care system. The additional planning time will also allow the VA to better work with Congress to ensure that its true resource needs are met well in advance of the start of the fiscal year.

These actions reflect the priority that you and the House leadership have placed on needs of the men and women who have so honorably served this country. We offer our strong support for the FY 2011 Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs appropriations bill and we hope that the House will quickly pass this critical legislation. Final passage of sufficient funding for the VA will allow the VA to better address the needs of the men and women returning from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom as well as all veterans who have served in the past.

Sincerely,

RAYMOND C. KELLEY,
National Legislative Director, AMVETS.

CARL BLAKE,
National Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America.

JOSEPH A. VIOLANTE,
National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans.

ERIC A. HILLEMAN,
Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

[From the National Guard Association of the United States, Inc., July 14, 2010]

NGAUS HAILS HOUSE EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE NATIONAL GUARD FACILITIES

WASHINGTON.—The association that represents the leadership of nearly 465,000 National Guard men and women today applauded efforts in the U.S. House of Representatives to modernize Guard facilities across the country.

This morning, the House appropriations subcommittee on military construction and veterans' affairs (VA), led by chairman Chet Edwards, D–Texas, and ranking member Zach Wamp, R–Tenn., approved $200 million above the president's budget request for Guard and Reserve military construction.

The move came as the House appropriations committee marks up the fiscal 2011 military construction/VA budget.

''Today, chairman Edwards and ranking member Wamp continued to lead the congressional effort to modernize our aging National Guard facilities,'' said retired Maj. Gen. Gus L. Hargett Jr., NGAUS president. ''We are grateful for their leadership, and the actions of the subcommittee speak volumes about their support of citizen-soldiers and airmen.''

Last year, the House appropriations subcommittee on military construction and veterans affairs, took the unique step of adding to its bill a block of funding to address critical unfunded military construction requirements in the National Guard and Reserve.

The extra $30 million each for the Army and Air Guard funded an additional eight projects, which otherwise may have been lost for years or even permanently.

NGAUS has been at the forefront of the push for additional funds for military construction. Hargett sent a letter in early March to House and Senate authorizers and appropriators requesting additional funds for Guard facilities.

According to the House appropriations committee press release, the markup provides ''$200 million to continue the subcommittee's Guard and Reserve initiative begun last year. This money will go to the highest unfunded military construction priorities of the commanders of the reserve components of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.''

The appropriations mark mirrors the House-passed version of the fiscal 2011 National Defense Authorization Act, which authorizes an additional discretionary $60 million for the Army National Guard and $50 million for the Air Guard for military construction. The president's budget request for Army Guard military construction for fiscal 2011 was $873.6 million; the Air Guard request was $177 million.

NGAUS believes the Army Guard needs $1.5 billion annually just to begin reducing a nationwide backlog of more than $13 billion in Army Guard military construction projects. The average armory is 43 years old. Many can no longer accommodate modern units and equipment.

The Air Guard requires $300 million a year.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the Military Construction Appropriations Act of 2011.

This measure provides $141.1 billion for military construction of all kinds from military family housing, to construction of operational facilities in the U.S. and abroad. This funding will be used to construct schools, hospitals and other facilities for veteran's healthcare.

The Veterans Health Administration has estimated that it will treat over 6.1 million patients next year. This number includes more than 439,000 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. This measure provides $48.8 billion for health programs within the Veterans Health Administration. Additionally, the bill provides $53 billion for service-connected compensation, pensions and benefits for the estimated 4 million veterans and their families.

This measure provides $2.4 billion to further implement base closures and realignments outlined in the 2005 BRAC, including support for the re-stationing of troops and their families from overseas to the United States. The bill provides $1.3 billion to support our troops in Afghanistan and $259 million for U.S. construction funding obligations as part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program in that country.

For military families living on base, the measure appropriates $1.8 billion for housing as well as for operation and maintenance costs. These funds are used for everything from repairs, to furnishings, management, utilities, and even for mortgage insurance. To address the growing housing backlog for unmarried troops and trainees, the bill provides $190 million for Army trainee housing facilities.

And finally, to ensure accountability, the measure provides funding to the Defense Department inspector general to audit these and other military construction projects.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of the rule for H.R. 5822, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2011. I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. EDWARDS, for introducing this important bill honoring our continued commitment to support the brave men and women who have been willing to sacrifice their very lives in the service of our nation and the freedom we so cherish. Our armed forces and their family members are among the most valued members of our society, custodians of our freedom and protectors of our democracy. We must continually re-commit ourselves to serving them with the same honor, dignity and respect with which they serve their country.

This bill generously provides substantial funding, over 77 billion dollars, in the service of our men and women in uniform, veterans, and their families for fiscal year 2011. It is a continuation of three and a half years of hard work and tireless efforts on behalf of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies. This bill is a testament to their commitment to our soldiers, veterans and their loved ones. Moreover, the bill contains specific guidelines and provisions to ensure that all funds are spent responsibly, accountably and in a way that serves our troops and American taxpayers.

Of the 77 billion dollars, 18.7 billion are for Military Construction. The funds will provide adequate housing for our young military trainees bravely serving their country; it will fund environmental cleanup of closed or moved bases as we strategically re-align resources; it will provide for a National Guard and Reserve initiative for the men and women serving their nation at home; and it grants funding for critical construction for overseas contingencies operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The bill also dedicates over 56 billion dollars to Veterans Affairs honoring those who, after serving their country overseas, returned home to re-integrate into the society they fought valiantly to protect. The majority of the funding, over 37 billion, will go to providing much needed and well deserved medical services for all veterans, including mental health services and assistance to homeless veterans. The remaining funding will be used for major and minor construction projects, medical and prosthetic research, and medical facilities in the service of our honored veterans.

Finally, in Related Agencies, the bill is providing for a number of other critical needs, such as the National Cemetery, funding for an Armed Forces Retirement Home, and the Monuments Commission which manages and cares for the monuments and cemeteries around the world that honor the service of our armed forces.

Additionally, in respect for the fact that the American public has rightly demanded greater

efficiency in government and efforts to reduce our deficit spending, there are a number of important provisions to ensure that all funds are spent in the most effective, efficient and expedient way possible. The provisions include several controls for Veterans Affairs spending and contract oversight, as well as oversight provisions for all construction projects in Iraq and Afghanistan, among others.

Although I am disappointed that my amendment, establishing portability between states for individualized education, disability and therapeutic benefits of a dependent of a member of the armed forces upon transfer of the member, was not included in the final version, I still gladly and proudly support this bill.

However, I would like to reiterate that an important part of anyone's quality of life is their family and dependents. One of the ways in which we can serve the members of the armed forces who sacrifice so much for our safety and our liberty is to ensure that their families are taken care of, and eliminate the bureaucratic red tape involved in moving from one place to another. Members of the armed forces often find themselves moving, and uprooting their families and their lives. Hopefully such a provision, aimed at facilitating that process by making the educational, disability and therapeutic benefits of a child or dependent of a member of the armed forces transferable from one state to another, will be included in future legislation.

In closing, I reiterate my strong support for this bill, and express my most sincere and heartfelt appreciation to everyone fighting to defend our country for their service and sacrifice for the good of the nation.

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 5822, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (Mil Con-VA) and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2011.

I commend my friend and colleague, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Congressman CHET EDWARDS (D–TX) for writing a bill that provides tremendous support to our veterans and families. One of the greatest accomplishments since the Democrats regained control of Congress has been providing our veterans with a budget worthy of their service and sacrifice. The Mil Con-VA Appropriations Act for FY 2011 is no exception.

Since the Democrats took back Congress in 2007, we have provided a 70 percent increase in funding for veterans health care and benefits. Some of the highlights of this increase include the addition to the VA of more than 10,000 claims processors to reduce claims backlogs, 3,389 doctors and 14,316 nurses, 145 community-based outpatient clinics, 92 new vet centers, and more than 47,000 additional Veterans Health Administration employees.

In addition, the FY 2011 Mil Con-VA Appropriations Act also fulfills a top priority of national veterans service organizations by continuing to provide advance appropriations of the VA. This way, the VA will be better able to plan for its future needs.

Other important provisions in this legislation include $37.1 billion to improve access to medical services for all veterans; $5.2 billion for mental health services for our veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and traumatic brain injury; and $4.2 billion to help our homeless veterans move from the streets to secure homes.

Madam Chair, as a veteran of World War II, I am proud to support this legislation which continues the Democratic Congress' strong commitment to our veterans and their families. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 5822.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Chair, I rise today to express my concern with the reduction in military construction funding to Guam for the realignment of U.S. Marines from Okinawa, Japan to Guam. I appreciate the Committee's recognition of the strategic importance of this realignment as well as their general support for these efforts. However, I remain concerned that these cuts send the wrong message at the wrong time. It is unfortunate that my counterparts in the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs did not follow the funding levels for Guam military construction that were agreed to in H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. Given the recent reluctance by the Government of Japan to reaffirm the Guam International Agreement, I believe it is important to collectively move forward with a unified position.

However, these cuts do make one point clear to my constituents. Congress holds the power of the purse. There are concerns on Guam and with certain federal agencies that the pace of construction during the military build-up could place an undue burden on our civilian infrastructure. However, I have made it clear that if construction was outpacing the local community's ability to handle the additional people we could put our foot on the brakes. Given the concerns raised by our local government this reduction in funding highlights how Congress can ensure that we get this build-up done right.

Finally, I would like to rise in support of amendment #8 introduced by my colleague from Georgia, Congressman PHIL GINGREY. His amendment would restrict funds authorized by this bill to be used for the purposes of eminent domain without providing payment of just compensation. This amendment highlights our concern that eminent domain is not a preferred method through which the Federal Government should obtain private or other government lands. I support this amendment because there is concern that the Department of the Navy would use the powers of eminent domain to obtain private and Government of Guam land to build a new training range. This amendment would demonstrate that I am opposed to any such action on Guam in the future.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 5822, the Fiscal Year 2011 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. It is with great pride that I serve on this subcommittee and I want to commend my colleague from Texas, Mr. EDWARDS, the Chairman of the Subcommittee, and our ranking member, my colleague from Tennessee, Mr. WAMP, for their work in putting together this legislation.

The men and women of our armed forces and our veterans deserve the very best support and care that we can offer them and this bill achieves that. This legislation fulfills our commitment to their future and to their well being.

We include in this appropriations bill $57.0 billion in funding for veterans programs, an increase of $3.9 billion over the level of funding we provided last year. These funds will address some of the major problems our Nation has in addressing the needs of our veterans, including those with mental illness, traumatic brain injuries, the homeless, and the disabled who are forced to wait countless months and even years to resolve their disability claims.

The largest portion of this funding, $48.8 billion, is for veterans medical care. It will enable the VA doctors and staff to treat an estimated 6.1 million patients, including thousands of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. We also continue our emphasis on mental health and medical services for our returning heroes who are suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injuries.

We also increase by 20 percent to $4.2 billion our commitment to providing housing and medical services to our homeless veterans. We must do better in providing transitional housing and serves to these American heroes who now find themselves with nowhere to live and nowhere to work.

We also provide a 25 percent increase in funding, to $2.6 billion, to hire 4,000 additional claims processors to reduce the unacceptable backlog in claims for veterans benefits. With this increase in staffing levels, our Committee will have added more than 10,200 new claims processors over the past four years.

Our committee's support has also been vital to my efforts to continue to support the work of the medical professionals at the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, which I have the privilege to represent.

We have opened at Bay Pines one of our Nation's most active VA Inspector General operations, to ferret out waste, fraud and abuse in veterans programs and to ensure that every dollar we appropriate to care for our veterans is spent as intended.

We have also been able to speed up work on the construction of a brand new facility to treat veterans with mental illness and Post Traumatic Syndrome Disorder. We also have broken ground thin year on a new Ambulatory Surgery Center and Eye Treatment facility at Bay Pines, work is well underway on a new facility to provide radiation treatment for cancer patients, and we have opened two new VA medical clinics in northern and southern Pinellas County to better serve veterans and their medical needs closer to their homes.

Finally, Madam Chair, I want to thank the members of the subcommittee for accepting my amendment to this legislation to ensure that we fix the problems associated with the national embarrassment that we find at Arlington National Cemetery. The committee has included $150 million in the bill to address the many problems, those which we already know about and those which we have yet to find out about, at Arlington. My amendment would require that the Army develop a clear timetable and specify their plan to resolve all identified issues before they can spend these funds. We owe no less to our America's fallen heroes for whom Arlington is their final resting place and to their families who share our shock and outrage at the situation that we find at one of our Nation's most sacred places.

Madam Chair, this is a good bill, one that addresses the current and future needs of our Nation's veterans. It is also a bill that emphasizes what our committee and this House can do when we work together in a bipartisan way to solve our problems.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Chair, this bill contains many worthy items, including a substantial investment in our Veterans Affairs programs. A strong safety net for our veterans is more important than ever, particularly in Oregon, where returning Guard and Reserve members face high unemployment and a difficult transition back to civilian life.

I also want to highlight what my colleague Representative CHELLIE PINGREE of Maine stated earlier in this debate: the cleanup of closed military bases is critical to health and growth of our communities. Across America, these closed bases contain discarded munitions, toxins, and shell fragments leftover from years of military training. Funding the return of these properties to safe and productive use is vital. Funds go directly to the development of detection and removal technology, the creation of skilled technician jobs, and generate economic growth as cleaned lands become commercial, residential, or recreational spaces.

For the past decade I have worked with a bipartisan group of members to raise awareness of this issue. I am pleased that with the leadership of my friend Representative SAM FARR, the House has designated $100 million over the President's budget request for the legacy BRAC account. This $460 million is critically needed to address the large backlog of environmental hazards still present at bases closed during the earliest Base Realignment and Closure rounds. I hope in future years we can build on this commitment to our nation's safety and prosperity.

MR. EDWARDS of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered read for amendment under the 5-minute rule, and the bill shall be considered read through page 63, line 4.

The text of that portion of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5822

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, $4,051,512,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015, of which $190,000,000 shall be for trainee troop housing facilities: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed $259,456,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Army determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for the funds provided for trainee troop housing facilities.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, $3,587,376,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed $123,750,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, $1,276,385,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed $73,536,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as currently authorized by law, $2,999,612,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015: *Provided*, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $434,217,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, notwithstanding any other provision of law, $31,863,000 shall be available for payments to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for the planning, design, and construction of a new North Atlantic Treaty Organization headquarters.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $1,020,228,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015, of which $60,000,000 shall be for critical unfunded requirements: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $57,182,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Army National Guard shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for the funds provided for critical unfunded requirements.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $292,386,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015, of which $50,000,000 shall be for critical unfunded requirements: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $21,214,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Air National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Air National Guard shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for the funds provided for critical unfunded requirements.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $358,325,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015, of which $30,000,000 shall be for critical unfunded requirements: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $26,250,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Army determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief of Army Reserve shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for the funds provided for critical unfunded requirements.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $91,557,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015, of which $15,000,000 shall be for critical unfunded requirements of the Navy Reserve

and $15,000,000 shall be for critical unfunded requirements of the Marine Forces Reserve: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $1,857,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief of Navy Reserve and the Commander, Marine Forces Reserve shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for the funds provided for critical unfunded requirements.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $48,182,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015, of which $30,000,000 shall be for critical unfunded requirements: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $2,503,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief of Air Force Reserve shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for the funds provided for critical unfunded requirements.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $258,884,000, to remain available until expended.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $92,369,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $518,140,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $186,444,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $366,346,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $78,025,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $513,792,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, $50,464,000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, $1,096,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

HOMEOWNERS ASSISTANCE FUND

For the Homeowners Assistance Fund established by section 1013 of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3374), $16,515,000, to remain available until expended.

CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of construction, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the destruction of the United States stockpile of lethal chemical agents and munitions in accordance with section 1412 of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1986 (50 U.S.C. 1521), and for the destruction of other chemical warfare materials that are not in the chemical weapon stockpile, as currently authorized by law, $124,971,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015, which shall be only for the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT 1990

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 1990, established by section 2906(a)(1) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), $460,474,000, to remain available until expended.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT 2005

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005, established by section 2906A(a)(1) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), $2,354,285,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Department of Defense shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to obligating an amount for a construction project that exceeds or reduces the amount identified for that project in the most recently submitted budget request for this account by 20 percent or $2,000,000, whichever is less: *Provided further*, That the previous proviso shall not apply to projects costing less than $5,000,000, except for those projects not previously identified in any budget submission for this account and exceeding the minor construction threshold under section 2805 of title 10, United States Code.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed $25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than $25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed $500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries within the United States Central Command Area of Responsibility, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries within the United States Central Command Area of Responsibility, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed $1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: *Provided*, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense is to inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of the plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed $100,000.

SEC. 114. Not more than 20 percent of the funds made available in this title which are limited for obligation during the current fiscal year shall be obligated during the last two months of the fiscal year.

SEC. 115. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 116. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, proceeds deposited to the Department of Defense Base Closure Account established by section 207(a)(1) of the Defense Authorization Amendments and Base Closure and Realignment Act (10 U.S.C. 2687 note) pursuant to section 207(a)(2)(C) of such Act, may be transferred to the account established by section 2906(a)(1) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), to be merged with, and to be available for the same purposes and the same time period as that account.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 119. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883, of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in ''Family Housing'' accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in ''Military Construction'' accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: *Provided*, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

SEC. 120. (a) Not later than 60 days before issuing any solicitation for a contract with the private sector for military family housing the Secretary of the military department concerned shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the notice described in subsection (b).

(b)(1) A notice referred to in subsection (a) is a notice of any guarantee (including the making of mortgage or rental payments) proposed to be made by the Secretary to the private party under the contract involved in the event of—

(A) the closure or realignment of the installation for which housing is provided under the contract;

(B) a reduction in force of units stationed at such installation; or

(C) the extended deployment overseas of units stationed at such installation.

(2) Each notice under this subsection shall specify the nature of the guarantee involved and assess the extent and likelihood, if any, of the liability of the Federal Government with respect to the guarantee.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 121. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the accounts established by sections 2906(a)(1) and 2906A(a)(1) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 122. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: *Provided*, That not more than $35,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission: *Provided further*, That the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report annually to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance expenditures for each individual general or flag officer quarters for the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 123. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

SEC. 124. None of the funds made available in this title, or in any Act making appropriations for military construction which remain available for obligation, may be obligated or expended to carry out a military construction, land acquisition, or family housing project at or for a military installation approved for closure, or at a military installation for the purposes of supporting a function that has been approved for realignment to another installation, in 2005 under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note), unless such a project at a military installation approved for realignment will support a continuing mission or function at that installation or a new mission or function that is planned for that installation, or unless the Secretary of Defense certifies that the cost to the United States of carrying out such project would be less than the cost to the United States of cancelling such project, or if the project is at an active component base that shall be established as an enclave or in the case of projects having multi-agency use, that another Government agency has indicated it will assume ownership of the completed project. The Secretary of Defense may not transfer funds made available as a result of this limitation from any military construction project, land acquisition, or family housing project to another account or use such funds for another purpose or project without the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress. This section shall not apply to military construction projects, land acquisition, or family housing projects for which the project is vital to the national security or the protection of health, safety, or environmental quality: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees within seven days of a decision to carry out such a military construction project.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 125. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation ''Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense'', to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

SEC. 126. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used for any action that is related to or promotes the expansion of the boundaries or size of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, Colorado.

SEC. 127. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded

under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill and in the guidance for military construction reprogrammings and notifications contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14–R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of December 1996, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $53,492,234,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed $30,423,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be reimbursed to ''General operating expenses'', ''Medical support and compliance'', and ''Information technology systems'' for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the ''Compensation and pensions'' appropriation: *Provided further*, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to ''Medical care collections fund'' to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $10,440,245,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by title 38, United States Code, chapters 19 and 21, $62,589,000, to remain available until expended.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That during fiscal year 2011, within the resources available, not to exceed $500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, $163,646,000.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, $48,000, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed $3,042,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, $337,000, which may be paid to the appropriation for ''General operating expenses''.

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, $707,000.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL SERVICES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, food services, and salaries and expenses of health care employees hired under title 38, United States Code, aid to State homes as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code, assistance and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, and loan repayments authorized by section 604 of Public Law 111-163, $39,649,985,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2011, and shall remain available until September 30, 2012: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available under this heading $1,015,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2013: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.); $5,535,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2011, and shall remain available until September 30, 2012: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available under this heading, $145,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2013.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, and domiciliary facilities and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services, $5,426,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2011, and shall remain available until September 30, 2012: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available under this heading, $145,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2013: *Provided further*, That, of the amount available for fiscal year 2012, $130,000,000 for non-recurring maintenance shall be allocated in a manner not subject to the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, $590,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2012.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemeterial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemeterial operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, $259,004,000, of which not to exceed $24,200,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2012.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed $25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, $2,601,389,000: *Provided*, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become

employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: *Provided further*, That the Veterans Benefits Administration shall be funded at not less than $2,162,776,000: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed $111,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2012: *Provided further*, That from the funds made available under this heading, the Veterans Benefits Administration may purchase (on a one-for-one replacement basis only) up to two passenger motor vehicles for use in operations of that Administration in Manila, Philippines.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, $3,222,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2012: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be obligated until the Department of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, a plan for expenditure that: (1) meets the capital planning and investment control review requirements established by the Office of Management and Budget; (2) complies with the Department of Veterans Affairs enterprise architecture; (3) conforms with an established enterprise life cycle methodology; and (4) complies with the acquisition rules, requirements, guidelines, and systems acquisition management practices of the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a reprogramming base letter which sets forth, by project, the operations and maintenance costs, with salary expenses separately designated, and development costs to be carried out utilizing amounts made available under this heading.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), $115,367,000, of which $6,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2012.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406, 8102, 8103, 8106, 8108, 8109, 8110, and 8122 of title 38, United States Code, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, $1,166,036,000, to remain available until expended, of which $6,000,000 shall be to make reimbursements as provided in section 13 of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (41 U.S.C. 612) for claims paid for contract disputes: *Provided*, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and salaries and associated costs of the resident engineers who oversee those capital investments funded through this account, and funds provided for the purchase of land for the National Cemetery Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project which has not been approved by the Congress in the budgetary process: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2011, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2011; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2012: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406, 8102, 8103, 8106, 8108, 8109, 8110, 8122, and 8162 of title 38, United States Code, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, $507,700,000, to remain available until expended, along with unobligated balances of previous ''Construction, minor projects'' appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, $85,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States in establishing, expanding, or improving State veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, $46,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2011 for ''Compensation and pensions'', ''Readjustment benefits'', and ''Veterans insurance and indemnities'' may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: *Provided*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2011, in this Act or any other Act, under the ''Medical services'', ''Medical support and compliance'', and ''Medical facilities'' accounts may be transferred among the accounts: *Provided*, That any transfers between the ''Medical services'' and ''Medical support and compliance'' accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: *Provided further*, That any transfers between the ''Medical services'' and ''Medical support and compliance'' accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That any transfers to or from the ''Medical facilities'' account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for ''Construction, major projects'', and ''Construction, minor projects'') shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the ''Medical services'' account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for ''Compensation and pensions'', ''Readjustment benefits'', and ''Veterans insurance and indemnities'' shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2010.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from ''Compensation and pensions''.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2011, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the ''General operating expenses'' and ''Information technology systems'' accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: *Provided*, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2011 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: *Provided further*, That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2011 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services, may be obligated during the fiscal year in which the proceeds are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication under section 319 of title 38, United States Code, for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not exceed $35,794,000 for the Office of Resolution Management and $3,354,000 for the Office of Employment and Discrimination Complaint Adjudication: *Provided*, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: *Provided further*, That amounts received shall be credited to the ''General operating expenses'' and ''Information technology systems'' accounts for use by the office that provided the service.

SEC. 211. No appropriations in this title shall be available to enter into any new lease of real property if the estimated annual rental cost is more than $1,000,000, unless the Secretary submits a report which the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress approve within 30 days following the date on which the report is received.

SEC. 212. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: *Provided*, That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the reasonable charges for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: *Provided further*, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 213. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the ''Construction, major projects'' and ''Construction, minor projects'' accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in ''Construction, major projects'' and ''Construction, minor projects''.

SEC. 214. Amounts made available under ''Medical services'' are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 215. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to ''Medical services'', to remain available until expended for the purposes of that account.

SEC. 216. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Indian tribes and tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, and Indian tribes and tribal organizations serving rural Alaska which have entered into contracts with the Indian Health Service under the Indian Self Determination and Educational Assistance Act, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term ''rural Alaska'' shall mean those lands sited within the external boundaries of the Alaska Native regions specified in sections 7(a)(1)–(4) and (7)–(12) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1606), and those lands within the Alaska Native regions specified in sections 7(a)(5) and 7(a)(6) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1606), which are not within the boundaries of the Municipality of Anchorage, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Kenai Peninsula Borough or the Matanuska Susitna Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 217. Such sums as may be deposited to the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the ''Construction, major projects'' and ''Construction, minor projects'' accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 218. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to implement any policy prohibiting the Directors of the Veterans Integrated Services Networks from conducting outreach or marketing to enroll new veterans within their respective Networks.

SEC. 219. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report on the financial status of the Veterans Health Administration.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 220. Amounts made available under the ''Medical services'', ''Medical support and compliance'', ''Medical facilities'', ''General operating expenses'', and ''National Cemetery Administration'' accounts for fiscal year 2011, may be transferred to or from the ''Information technology systems'' account: *Provided*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Amounts made available for the ''Information technology systems'' account may be transferred between projects: *Provided*, That no project may be increased or decreased by more than $1,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

SEC. 222. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with—

(1) section 842 of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–115; 119 Stat. 2506); or

(2) section 8110(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 223. Of the amounts made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2011, in this Act or any other Act, under the ''Medical facilities'' account for non-recurring maintenance, not more than 20 percent of the funds made available shall be obligated during the last 2 months of that fiscal year: *Provided*, That the Secretary may waive this requirement after providing written notice to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 224. Of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by this title, the Secretary may execute $5,000,000 for cooperative agreements with State and local government entities or their designees with a demonstrated record of serving veterans to conduct outreach to ensure that veterans in underserved areas receive the care and benefits for which they are eligible.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 225. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs in this Act, and any other Act, for ''Medical services'', ''Medical support and compliance'', ''Medical facilities'', ''Construction, minor projects'', and ''Information technology systems'', such sums as may be necessary, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of title XVII of division A of Public Law 111–84, and shall be available to fund operations of the integrated Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, consisting of the North Chicago Veteran Affairs Medical Center, and Navy Ambulatory Care Center, and supporting facilities designated as a combined Federal medical facility as described by Section 706 of Public Law 110–417.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 226. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant

to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for health care provided at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of title XVII of division A of Public Law 111–84, and shall be available to fund operations of the integrated Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, consisting of the North Chicago Veteran Affairs Medical Center, and Navy Ambulatory Care Center, and supporting facilities designated as a combined Federal medical facility as described by section 1706 of Public Law 110–417.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 227. Of the amounts available in this title for ''Medical services'', ''Medical support and compliance'', and ''Medical facilities'', a minimum of $15,000,000, shall be transferred to the Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 228. (a) Of the funds appropriated in the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111-117, Division E), the following amounts which become available on October 1, 2010 are hereby permanently cancelled from the accounts in the amounts specified:

''Medical services'', Department of Veterans Affairs, $1,015,000,000;

''Medical support and compliance'', Department of Veterans Affairs, $145,000,000; and

''Medical facilities'', Department of Veterans Affairs, $145,000,000.

(b) An additional amount is appropriated to the following accounts in the amounts specified, to become available on October 1, 2010 and to remain available until September 30, 2012:

''Medical services'', Department of Veterans Affairs, $1,015,000,000;

''Medical support and compliance'', Department of Veterans Affairs, $145,000,000; and

''Medical facilities'', Department of Veterans Affairs, $145,000,000.

SEC. 229. For an additional amount for the ''General operating expenses'' account, $23,584,000, to increase the Department's acquisition workforce capacity and capabilities: *Provided*, That such funds may be transferred by the Secretary to any other account in the Department to carry out the purposes provided herein: *Provided further*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided in this Act: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be available only to supplement and not to supplant existing acquisition workforce activities: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be available for training, recruitment, retention, and hiring additional members of the acquisition workforce as defined by the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act, as amended (41 U.S.C. 401 et seq.): *Provided further*, That such funds shall be available for information technology in support of acquisition workforce effectiveness or for management solutions to improve acquisition management.

SEC. 230. The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 30 days of enactment of this Act the planned funding allocation from each of the Veterans Health Administration accounts to the National Reserve Fund and any subsequent increase in these allocations of ten percent or more: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees of any planned obligation of the National Reserve Fund fifteen days before such obligation takes place, as well as the intended use of the funds.

SEC. 231. The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings in major construction projects that total at least $5,000,000, or five percent of the programmed amount, whichever is less: *Provided*, That such notification shall occur within 14 days after the date on which funds are obligated.

SEC. 232. The scope of work for a project included in ''Construction, major projects'', may not be increased above the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed $7,500 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, $65,667,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, $1,000,000 shall be for improvements and rehabilitation of the Bataan Death March Memorial at the Cabanatuan American Memorial in the Philippines.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, $90,147,000: *Provided*, That, of the foregoing amount, $62,000,000 shall be transferred to the General Services Administration for the construction of a courthouse to house the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims: *Provided further*, That $2,515,229 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described, and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth, under this heading in Public Law 102–229.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as authorized by law, for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, including the purchase of two passenger motor vehicles for replacement only, and not to exceed $1,000 for official reception and representation expenses, $39,600,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds available under this heading shall be for construction of a perimeter wall at Arlington National Cemetery. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies account.

Funds appropriated under this Act may be provided to Arlington County, Virginia, for the relocation of the federally-owned water main at Arlington National Cemetery making additional land available for ground burials.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, $71,200,000, of which $2,000,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi.

TITLE IV

OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Army'', $929,996,000, to remain available until September 30, 2013: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, such funds may be obligated and expended to carry out planning and design and military construction projects not otherwise authorized by law: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, $10,000,000 shall be transferred to ''Department of Defense — Other Department of Defense Programs — Office of the Inspector General'', to be merged with and to be available for the same time period as the appropriation to which transferred, for the purpose of carrying out audits of military construction projects in Afghanistan: *Provided further*, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Air Force'', $280,504,000, to remain available until September 30, 2013: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, such funds may be obligated and expended to carry out planning and design and military construction projects not otherwise authorized by law.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Defense-Wide'', $46,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2013: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, such funds may be obligated and expended to carry out planning and design and military construction projects not otherwise authorized by law.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. Unless otherwise specified, each amount in this title is designated as an emergency requirement and necessary to meet emergency needs pursuant to sections 403(a) and 423(b) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

SEC. 402. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect

and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed $500,000, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 403. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed $1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: *Provided*, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may waive the limitation imposed by this section upon a determination that such limitation is inconsistent with national security: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than five days following a decision to waive the limitation imposed in this section.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 502. Such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011 for pay raises for programs funded by this Act shall be absorbed within the levels appropriated in this Act.

SEC. 503. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 504. No part of any funds appropriated in this Act shall be used by an agency of the executive branch, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships, for publicity or propaganda purposes, and for the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, radio, television, or film presentation designed to support or defeat legislation pending before Congress, except in presentation to Congress itself.

SEC. 505. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of ''E-Commerce'' technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 506. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 507. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 508. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for a project or program named for an individual serving as a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

SEC. 509. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public website of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

SEC. 510. None of the funds made available in this Act may be distributed to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) or its subsidiaries.

SEC. 511. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated by any covered executive agency in contravention of the certification requirement of section 6(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, as included in the revisions to the Federal Acquisition Regulation pursuant to such section.

SEC. 512. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 513. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for the processing of new enhanced-use leases at the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The CHAIR. No amendment is in order except those printed in House Report 111–570. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for 10 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

After consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees each may offer one pro forma amendment to the bill for the purpose of debate, which shall be controlled by the proponent.

□ 1710

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. HOLT

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 111–570.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chair, I have amendment No. 1 at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 33, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $20,000,000) (increased by $20,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1559, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chair, I want to thank the Rules Committee for making this amendment in order and for the strong support and encouragement I have received in this effort from the chairman of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs subcommittee. The gentleman from Texas' leadership of the subcommittee and his concern and compassion and advocacy for the needs of veterans is truly an inspiration.

Madam Chair, we have few responsibilities as solemn and as important as ensuring that our veterans receive the care that we have promised them as a Nation. To that end, my amendment directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to allocate $20 million for direct advertising, the use of online social media and other media for suicide prevention outreach. Let me take a moment to tell you why this issue means so much to me, and I would like to tell you about one very remarkable family from my central New Jersey congressional district.

A little over a week ago, on July 14, I had the privilege of introducing Mrs. Linda Bean of East Brunswick, New Jersey, to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Linda was appearing before the Oversight and Investigations subcommittee to tell the story of how her son, Coleman, came to take his own life in September 2008. Linda made it clear why she had traveled to Washington to, I would say, courageously share her family's painful story: ''I owe a duty to my son and our debt to the men with whom Coleman served.''

You see, Coleman was a two-tour veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Like so many of our troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, Coleman developed post-traumatic stress disorder. In between and after those tours, he sought treatment for his PTSD. Because Sergeant Bean was a member of the Individual Ready Reserve, the so-called IRR—a pool of reserve soldiers not assigned to any unit but available for mobilization if needed—he could not get treatment for his condition because the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs refused to take ownership of Sergeant Bean and the thousands like him. A few weeks after Coleman took his life, the VA called to confirm his next appointment.

As Linda closed her testimony before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, she relayed how one VA official had told her, ''If they won't walk through the door, we can't help them.'' Linda's response must be our response: ''Of course we can help them. It is our duty to figure out how, not theirs.''

Earlier this year, I secured the inclusion of a suicide prevention provision in the annual defense authorization bill that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct periodic telephone or in-person outreach and counseling calls to reservists like Coleman. The idea is to check on the IRR member's mental, emotional and professional well-being and to identify and treat any IRR

members who are deemed to be at risk of harming themselves.

Because the other body has thus far failed to act on the fiscal year 2011 authorization, I have sent a letter to Secretaries Gates and Shinseki asking that they take whatever administrative action is necessary to reach out and monitor this very large pool of at-risk reservists. I have also asked that they meet with Greg and Linda Bean and explain in detail what those departments intend to do to prevent other Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans from suffering Coleman's fate.

Our commitment to reducing suicides among our veterans must be comprehensive and unwavering. This amendment today is designed to give the VA the resources and the direction to get appropriate and broad-based outreach under way as soon as President Obama signs this bill. I hope this amendment will be supported on a bipartisan basis, because, as Linda Bean says, ''It's not their job to figure out how, it's ours.''

I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I just want to commend the gentleman for his leadership on this effort. It is a heartbreaking tragedy every time a veteran takes his or her life as a result of their service to our country. I look forward to working with the gentleman and with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) as we go to conference committee to see that we do more than everything that is already being done to see that we prevent suicides from occurring.

If we save one life, then the gentleman's and our service here in Congress will have been time well served.

Mr. HOLT. I thank the gentleman.

In closing, I would say there are tens of thousands of people who will be helped.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Chair, I would like to claim the time in opposition, although I'm not necessarily opposed to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Chair, I just want to also commend the gentleman for offering this amendment. I think so often we have resources that are available like this that sometimes our veterans are not aware of. I think we've made great strides in dealing with this. We have a suicide prevention hotline we're working every day, but I think he makes an excellent point that so often people are not aware of the services they might avail themselves of.

I commend him for this. I would certainly favor this amendment so that we can get the word out to know that we're trying to help folks.

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CRENSHAW. I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. KENNEDY. I appreciate the gentleman's yielding.

I too want to join in paying tribute to the gentleman from New Jersey for this amendment and also to the chairman, Chairman EDWARDS, for his diligence to this mental health issue in the bill.

As I said earlier, these wounds may be invisible but they're not invisible to the members of our uniform who are suffering from them. I think it may not come as a surprise to most people that those servicemembers dying of suicide outnumber those who are killed in action. And that does not include our veterans. It wasn't until this defense bill that we just passed that we included a provision that the President of the United States would actually send a letter of condolence to the family of those who had taken their life in the field, and we all know what the pressures are on those individuals: more tours of duty, longer times away from their families, and more stress.

The fact of the matter is I think that this work that you're doing, RUSH, is to be commended. I think it is also important for everyone to note that this historic health bill that we just passed will encompass 72 percent of all veterans who will get their care thanks to this Congress' work to include mental health parity in the health care reform bill that was just passed. Seventy-two percent of all vets will never see the VA for their health care but, rather, through private health insurance. And this Congress passed legislation making it illegal for them to be discriminated against based upon health status, whether it be mental, physical, and we all know that mental now is a neurological disorder.

Thanks again for your good work. Again thank you to the chairman and ranking member for their good work on this.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. BUYER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 111–570.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 34, line 7, before the period at the end insert the following: '': *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $10,000,000 shall be available to increase the number of Department of Veterans Affairs employees who administer benefits under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1559, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 5822. This amendment would fence off $10 million in the VA's general operating expenses account.

The goal of the VA's vocational rehabilitation and employment program is to put disabled veterans back to work or, for the most severely disabled, to live as independently as possible.

VA's counselors currently have an average caseload of over 130 disabled veterans. Because of the heavy workload which includes a significant amount of case management and regular interaction with their clients, the time to actually enter vocational training is nearly six months. That is on top of the average of the 6 months it takes to receive a disability rating needed to even become eligible for this benefit.

The $10 million included in this amendment would fund one hundred additional professional level staff and will be a small step towards reducing the caseload to a more manageable average of 100 per counselor thereby shortening the time it takes to begin training. For many veterans and servicemembers VR&E training is the bridge to meaningful and productive employment.

I urge all members to vote in favor of my amendment to H.R. 5822.

□ 1720

I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I want to commend Mr. BUYER for offering this amendment.

Without this amendment, the VA would actually be reducing at the very worst time the number of vocational rehab employees. We ought to be increasing those numbers, and that's what we will be doing with this, particularly given a lot of our troops coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan are having difficult times finding jobs. They need this support.

The VA gets a lot of things right, but I don't think they got this part of their budget right. And I thank the gentleman for correcting it, and it's a privilege to support his amendment.

Mr. BUYER. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. BUYER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 111–570.

Mr. BUYER. I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 38, line 18, before the period insert the following: '': *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $162,734,000 shall be for renewable energy projects at Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility campuses pursuant to section 8103 of title 38, United States Code''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1559, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. BUYER. I ask unanimous consent to modify my amendment.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

Modification to Amendment No. 3 offered by Mr. BUYER:

The amendment as modified is as follows:

Page 54, after line 2, insert the following:

SEC. ____. Of the amounts made available for fiscal year 2011 for ''Medical Facilities'' in Public Law 111-117, $162,734,000 shall be available for renewable energy projects at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility campuses subject to section 8103 of title 38, United States Code.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the modification?

Without objection, the amendment is modified.

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUYER. I will proceed on the modified amendment.

After discussion with Chairman EDWARDS and with the ranking member, Mr. CRENSHAW, we've all agreed to a better way forward on the amendment. So I appreciate your efforts on the modification.

Accordingly, what we're seeking to do here is overcome some challenges that we have with regard to the advance appropriation and how dollars can be dedicated to particular uses. So the Appropriations Committee has worked with me, and for that I am deeply appreciative.

I want to express my thanks to Chairman EDWARDS and to Mr. CRENSHAW. Both of you have been very good friends. I respect your leadership, and I appreciate your good faith in working with myself and my staff.

Over the years, the 18 years I've been here, the years I've been privileged to work in leadership as chairman and as ranking member, I have respected the interoperability and cooperation between the Appropriations staff and the authorizers. It has worked really, really well. At times they can disagree, but they can professionally work it out. I've been impressed by that, and it has continued.

So I want to thank you for that. And this is a prime example. This is one of them whereby I look back to 2008 when we wanted to do these renewable energy projects, and you were challenged at the time because the Speaker didn't want renewable projects in the bill, but you agreed that this was something that we needed to do and tried to figure out how we're going to do it.

So I recognize it couldn't be done at the time, but it was something that you also embraced and supported. And I went on down the street like I said I was going to do, and we did 16 of these renewable energy projects. Then we come back in 2009, you and I do a colloquy, and we're $147 million already down the road. That's how far we're into this now, Chairman EDWARDS and Mr. CRENSHAW, and this is a good thing.

The VA, such a very large enterprise, large consumer of energy and being the second largest department here of government, what you're doing here in this green management and renewable energy, geothermal, wind, solar, this is smart. It really is. It's smart what you're doing. So I really want to thank you for doing this.

We've got more projects identified. They're around 60. These moneys will allow the VA to stay on track on their timelines, and I really appreciate your working with me to do this.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I just want to commend Mr. BUYER for his leadership. This is not the first time he has come to the floor fighting for renewable energy projects and conservation projects for the VA. And as he leaves Congress at the end of this Congress, I want to thank him for this effort. Every dollar we save by conservation investments and renewable energy investments is a dollar that's either back into the taxpayers' pocket or a dollar that goes to actually provide better health care for America's veterans. So that's why I'm enthusiastic in my support of this amendment, and I commend the gentleman for his authorship of it.

Mr. BUYER. Reclaiming my time, I also want to extend my appreciation to Secretary Shinseki for his work and the previous Secretary.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

The amendment, as modified, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. BUYER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 111–570.

Mr. BUYER. I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 34, line 7, before the period at the end insert the following: '': *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $8,000,000 shall be available to fund the adaptive sports grant program under section 521A of title 38, United States Code, and $2,000,000 shall be available to carry out section 322 of title 38, United States Code''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1559, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 5822, as reported.

This amendment would provide $10 million in VA general operating expense funding for the VA-US Paralympic Adaptive Sports Grant Program.

Madam Chairwoman, several years ago I had the opportunity to visit the U.S. Olympic Training Center in San Diego. From that moment we then set the course to restructure the United States Olympic Committee. Once we did that, by the relationships that developed, by the reorganization of the Olympic Committee, we then became a Nation at war. I then sought to leverage these relationships with the VA and their sports programs.

I looked at this and how we can use sports as a platform for healing, and you know, when I looked back on this, yes, you know, we moved out and we embraced it. I started at the top and probably should have started at the bottom. I started where I started and it was with the Olympics, the Olympic Committee. Not everyone is an Olympian. That's the reality of this. Not everyone was blessed with an Olympic body or the mind or the will. But it's how do we, as a Nation, use sports as a platform for healing? And most of our warriors are athletes. And so when they get injured, how do we inspire them?

Now, when we brought the Olympic Committee and the sports programs from the VA together, we were able to leverage that whereby our military athletes then could actually have an avenue to be part of the Olympic team. And that has, in fact, happened and has been done.

Last year—and I want to thank Chairman EDWARDS—he supported the $10 million that went into this adaptive sports program.

□ 1730

The Olympic committee helps with this grant program now to take the same ideal, the Olympic ideal, and move it out to all the communities across the country. And so an individual who may not be an Olympian can be an Olympian of their own community, can actually compete. It is that competition—it's not the winning. It's have you improved yourself, have you bettered your time, and making someone feel good about that, this Adaptive Sports program, whereby it's done at the local level and then builds up is really good, and this is a very good program. We're in our infancy, and I want to thank the chairman and for supporting this last time.

So the concept I think is pretty simple. I do have some pictures here I'd like to share with everyone. This is a picture of disabled veterans and servicemembers running the 100 meter dash at the Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and this was in May of this year. And when you see this running the 100 meter dash, you know we've got a mixture here. This gentleman lost—this is a below the ankle, here is a below the knee amputation, and this is a double amputation, and they're sprinting the 100 meter dash. Think about the inspiration that they have. I mean, these warrior athletes are truly remarkable.

I want to show you another photo of a double amputee. This Olympian right here during the winter games, this is Heath Calhoun, a Paralympian, and this was in Vancouver in March of this year. Mr. Calhoun is an Army Ranger. He was wounded when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his Humvee while he was serving in Iraq. He lost both legs as a result of that attack. His grandfather served in World War II, his father served in Vietnam, and he then sought to serve his country and lost both legs. He dedicated himself then to overcome this challenge and made the United States Olympic team and competed in Vancouver.

So these Olympians also then mentor and aspire others into the Adaptive Sports Grant Program. So this is remarkable. This is building off the Olympic ideal to really help our warriors, and we're achieving the goal, and that is to use sports as a platform for healing.

So $10 million can be a lot of money, but talking about what we get out of this, the intangibles that we can get out of this, when these men and women that go through this feel so good about themselves and take their bodies to new levels, guess what? They feel good about their families, they feel good about their jobs, and our goal here is to make sure that they can live as full a life as they possibly can.

That's what we want to do.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I'm not necessarily opposing this amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I just wanted to say that I think this is a wonderful program. I'm a little bit aware of that because in my home district in Jacksonville, Florida, there's an organization called the Wounded Warriors, and they work in conjunction with this program, and I've had the chance to visit that program to see and meet some of these Wounded Warriors.

The thing that I hear over and over again is they say this is something that gives us our spirit back. We can compete. We can enjoy life. We can be with our families, and I think it is something that is very, very worthwhile and commend the gentleman for bringing it up.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CRENSHAW. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I just want to commend him and commend Mr. BUYER for this effort. These photographs are an inspiration to all of us, to our veterans, to our Wounded Warriors, but to every American. This program is an inspiration to our Wounded Warriors, our veterans, and all Americans who hear about it. I am in full support of this amendment. I also want to thank again Mr. BUYER, along with Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. LANGEVIN, who over the last several years have been real champions, along with Mr. BUYER, of this program, and again, I'm honored to support the amendment.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. CUELLAR

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 111–570.

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. 5____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301-10.122 through 301-10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1559, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Chair, my amendment is a commonsense amendment that ensures no taxpayers dollars will be used to purchase first-class tickets for employees of agencies funded by this bill except in special circumstances as allowed under law.

This is, again, important because it does prohibit unapproved first-class travel and offers a direct method of guidance by referencing the Code of Federal Regulations to prohibit this type of premium travel for Federal employees.

I think the chairman is in agreement with me that this is a way to save taxpayer dollars, and he's in agreement with this amendment.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CUELLAR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I am glad to support this amendment.

Mr. CUELLAR. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. FLAKE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 111–570.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds provided in this Act shall be available from the following Department of Defense military construction accounts for the following projects:

Account	Location	Project	Amount
Army	Alabama: Fort Rucker	Emergency Medical Services Facility	$1,700,000
Air Force	Alabama: Maxwell AFB	Air Traffic Control Tower	$810,000
Defense-Wide	Arizona: Marana	SOF Parachute Training Facility	$6,250,000
Army NG	Arkansas: Camp Robinson	Regional Training Institute, Ph 2	$2,334,000
Navy	California: Coronado NAB	MESG-1 Consolidated Boat Maintenance Facility.	$6,890,000
Air Force	California: Los Angeles AFB	Parking Structure, Ph 2	$4,500,000
Air NG	California: Moffett Field	Relocate Main Gate	$2,000,000
Navy	California: Monterey NSA	International Academic Instruction Building	$11,960,000
Army NG	California: Sacramento	Field Maintenance Shop Paving	$891,000
Air Force	California: Travis AFB	BCE Maintenance Shops and Supply Warehouse.	$387,000
Army NG	California: Ventura	Renewable Photovoltaic Solar Power	$1,466,000
Air NG	Colorado: Buckley AFB	Repair Taxiways Juliet and Lima	$4,000,000
Army NG	Colorado: Watkins	Parachute Maintenance Facility	$3,569,000
Navy	Connecticut: New London NSB	Submarine Group Two Headquarters	$550,000
Air Force	Florida: MacDill AFB	Infrastructure Improvements	$249,000
Navy	Florida: Panama City NSA	Land Acquisition-9 Acres	$5,960,000
Navy	Georgia: Albany MCLB	Maintenance Center Test Firing Range	$5,180,000
Air Force	Georgia: Robins AFB	Combat Communications Squadron Warehouse.	$5,500,000
Army NG	Illinois: Marseilles Training Area	Simulation Center	$2,500,000
Air Force	Illinois: Scott AFB	New Fitness Facility, Ph 1	$396,000
Navy	Indiana: Crane NSWC	Platform Protection Engineering Complex	$760,000

Account	Location	Project	Amount
Army NG	Iowa: Camp Dodge	Regional Training Institute, Ph 1	$800,000
Air NG	Iowa: Des Moines	Corrosion Control Hangar	$4,750,000
Army NG	Iowa: Iowa City	Simulation Center/MVSB/ Helipad/Parking	$1,999,000
Army NG	Kentucky: Frankfort	Joint Forces Headquarters, Ph 1	$281,000
Air NG	Kentucky: Standiford Field	Contingency Response Group Facility	$534,000
Air NG	Louisiana: New Orleans NAS/JRB	ASA Replace Alert Complex	$2,000,000
Navy	Maine: Portsmouth NSY	Consolidation of Structural Shops, Ph 1	$11,910,000
Army NG	Maryland: Easton	Readiness Center Add/Alt	$347,000
Army	Maryland: Fort Meade	Infrastructure-Mapes Road & Cooper Avenue	$1,750,000
Navy	Maryland: Patuxent River NAS	Atlantic Test Range Addition	$10,160,000
Air NG	Massachusetts: Barnes ANGB	Add to Aircraft Maintenance Hangar	$6,000,000
Army NG	Michigan: Fort Custer (Augusta)	Troop Service Support Center	$446,000
Air NG	Minnesota: Duluth	Load Crew Training & Weapons Release Shops.	$8,000,000
Army NG	Minnesota: Mankato	Field Maintenance Shop	$947,000
Defense-Wide	Mississippi: Stennis Space Center	SOF Land Acquisition, Ph 3	$8,000,000
Air Force	Missouri: Whiteman AFB	Consolidated Air Operations Facility	$23,500,000
Army NG	Nevada: Las Vegas	Civil Support Team Ready Building	$8,771,000
Air NG	New Jersey: Atlantic City IAP	Fuel Cell and Corrosion Control Hangar	$8,500,000
Army Reserve	New Jersey: Fort Dix	Automated Multipurpose Machine Gun Range.	$9,800,000
Air Force	New Mexico: Holloman AFB	Parallel Taxiway, Runway 07/25	$8,000,000
Air Force	New Mexico: Kirtland AFB	Replace Fire Station 3	$6,800,000
Army	New York: Fort Drum	Alert Holding Area Facility	$6,700,000
Air Reserve	New York: Niagara Falls ARS	C-130 Flightline Operations Facility, Ph 1	$9,500,000
Army NG	New York: Ronkonkoma (MacArthur Airport).	Flightline Rehabilitation	$2,780,000
Air NG	New York: Stewart ANGB	Aircraft Conversion Facility	$3,750,000
Army NG	North Carolina: Camp Butner	Barracks (AT), Ph 1	$1,484,000
Army NG	North Carolina: Morrisville	AASF 1 Fixed Wing Hangar Annex	$8,815,000
Army NG	North Carolina: Murphy	Fire Fighting Team Support Facility	$223,000
Air Force	North Carolina: Pope AFB	Crash/Fire/ Rescue Station	$13,500,000
Air Force	North Dakota: Grand Forks AFB	Central Deployment Center	$495,000
Army NG	Ohio: Camp Sherman	Maintenance Building Add/Alt	$3,100,000
Army NG	Ohio: Ravenna Training Site	Unit Training Equipment Site Add/Alt	$2,000,000
Air NG	Ohio: Toledo Express Airport	Replace Security Forces Complex	$7,300,000
Defense-Wide	Oklahoma: Tulsa IAP	Fuels Storage Complex	$1,036,000
Army NG	Oregon: Salem	Armed Forces Reserve Center Add/Alt (JFHQ).	$1,243,000
Air NG	Pennsylvania: Fort Indiantown Gap	Multipurpose Air National Guard Training Facility.	$675,000
Army NG	Pennsylvania: Hermitage	Readiness Center	$671,000
Army NG	Pennsylvania: Tobyhanna	Armed Forces Reserve Center	$1,513,000
Army NG	Pennsylvania: Williamsport	Field Maintenance Shop	$1,508,000
Army NG	Rhode Island: Middletown	Readiness Center Add/Alt	$3,646,000
Army NG	Rhode Island: Quonset Point	Readiness Center	$3,729,000
Air NG	South Carolina: McEntire JRB	Replace Operations and Training Facility	$9,100,000
Air NG	South Dakota: Joe Foss Field	Aircraft Maintenance Shops	$3,600,000
Air Force	Tennessee: Arnold AFB	AEDC Power Distribution Modernization	$378,000
Army	Texas: Corpus Christi Depot	Rotor Blade Processing Facility, Ph 2	$13,400,000
Army	Texas: Fort Bliss	Alternative Energy Projects	$1,166,000
Army	Texas: Fort Bliss	Rail Yard Improvements	$2,070,000
Army	Texas: Fort Hood	Soldier Readiness Processing Center	$1,000,000
Navy	Texas: Kingsville NAS	Youth Center	$2,610,000
Air Force	Texas: Lackland AFB	Consolidated Security Forces Ops Center, Ph 1.	$900,000
Air Force	Texas: Laughlin AFB	Community Event Complex	$10,500,000
Army NG	Texas: Laredo	Receiving, Staging, & Onward Integration Facility/Hangar.	$475,000
Army NG	Texas: McLennan County	Operational Reserve Headquarters	$5,000,000
Army NG	Texas: South Texas Training Center	Cantonment and Support Infrastructure	$5,000,000
Army	Virginia: Fort Belvoir	Growth Support Infrastructure	$3,060,000
Air Force	Virginia: Langley AFB	Clear Zone Land Acquisition, Ph 1	$3,000,000
Defense-Wide	Washington: Fort Lewis	SOF Military Working Dog Kennel	$4,700,000
Navy	Washington: Kitsap NB	Charleston Gate ECP Improvements	$6,150,000
Army NG	West Virginia: Bridgeport	FWAATS Apron Expansion	$2,000,000
Army NG	West Virginia: Bridgeport	FWAATS Expansion	$2,000,000
Army NG	West Virginia: Glen Jean	Emergency Power Generator	$1,500,000
Army NG	Wisconsin: Wausau	Field Maintenance Shop	$12,008,000
Army NG	Guam: Barrigada	Joint Forces HQ Readiness Center Add/Alt	$778,000

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1559, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Chair, this amendment is straightforward.

It would simply prevent the funding of all Member-requested earmarks in the bill. It would return the funds to the original accounts. I'm not here to dispute the merits of these projects. I have no doubt that some of those projects are worthwhile and would improve the quality of life for our military servicemembers and their families, but that's not what is at issue here.

At issue, again, as I pointed out before, is the spoils system that this process of earmarking represents. This year's Military Construction-VA appropriations bill shows that the spoils system is alive and well. It's happened in previous years, and it's no different this year. The only difference here is we have basically just one party engaging in it, and so the spoils are even more concentrated in fewer Members.

Let me just put this chart up here. These are the FY 2011 earmark dollars associated with powerful Members of

Congress. By powerful Members I mean those who are on the Appropriations Committee, those who are in leadership, or those who are chairmen of committees. And if you look at the appropriations bills that have gone through either the subcommittee or full committee on appropriations, you see this appropriations spoils system in action here.

This looks like a Pacman chart here with a hungry Pacman here. The red represents the percentage taken by powerful members. In the Homeland Security bill, 52 percent of the earmark dollars go to powerful Members. Fifty-two percent go to just 13 percent of this body; CJS bill, 57 percent; Agriculture, 76 percent; THUD, 42 percent; and MILCON VA, what we're doing now, 51 percent.

More than half of the earmark dollars in this legislation are going to just 13 percent of the Members in this body. Madam Chair, that is simply not right. We shouldn't be doing this. Yet year after year we do it. No matter what kind of reforms we enact, we still have the spoils system alive and well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I claim time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1740

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I respect the gentleman. He takes a principled position on congressionally sponsored projects, but I strongly oppose this amendment.

The Flake amendment, regardless of its intentions, would cut $163 million out of important military construction projects for the National Guard and Reserves, which are playing a key role in our war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This amendment would cut $57 million out of force protection, safety and security forces facilities, including more secure entrance gates at our military installations, fire stations to protect our troops and their families on posts.

The Flake amendment would cut $30 million from quality of life facilities—much needed by our troops and earned by our troops, deserved by our troops—barracks, youth and community centers, roads. It cuts 44 projects that are in the Department of Defense's Future Years Defense Program.

One of the programs this would cut is $1 million I put in this bill as an earmark to provide for a new Soldier Readiness Processing Center at Fort Hood so those soldiers, over 40,000 serving there, will not have to go through a processing center which was the site of the murder of 12 of their Army comrades and one civilian just months ago.

A ''yes'' vote on this amendment will cut these kinds of worthy projects.

Now, Mr. FLAKE will claim and has claimed that DOD will still have the money to spend, but that's not correct because this amendment is flawed in the way it's drafted because—well, first of all, let me say that let's at least get rid of the pretence that cutting earmarks would save taxpayer dollars if he says, well, this money could still be spent by DOD.

But the reality is, because of the flawed nature of the way this amendment was put together, it would be the best—the worst, actually, of both worlds. One, it wouldn't save taxpayers' dollars because the appropriations would go to the Department of Defense; but because it would be in an account for programs not authorized, that money could not be spent for all of the worthwhile kinds of projects that I have just mentioned.

Let me put in perspective what we are talking about here. This is a $140 billion bill. Less than three-tenths of 1 percent of this bill was designated by Members of Congress working with community leaders, military leaders, military base leaders.

If I can ask my staff for a chart, I would just like to show, in perspective, what a small part of this total bill actually goes to congressionally sponsored projects.

Now, Mr. FLAKE apparently has more trust in the Obama administration than I did. I don't think bureaucrats in Washington are right 100 percent of the time, and it's not wrong—in fact, it's right—to say that Members of Congress, working with military leaders and community leaders, ought to have some voice in where their taxpayers' dollars go.

Madam Chair, I want to point out this is a chart. This graph shows how much is spent in this bill. The part of the bill that Mr. FLAKE is objecting to is this red part right here. Probably from that side of the aisle it would be very, very hard to see it.

But I just want people to understand that the administration gets a voice on this amount of money in the bill. Members of Congress working with military leaders get a voice on this amount. This is what we are talking about.

But I want to talk and say this amount is significant because, if this amendment were to pass, and I hope it will not and I do not believe it will, it would harm important quality of life and protection projects for our service men and women. It would kill a major initiative in this bill to increase funding for the National Guard and Reserves who are playing a vitally important role in Iraq and Afghanistan.

May I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I would yield that time to my colleague Mr. ORTIZ.

Mr. ORTIZ. I rise in opposition to the Flake amendment. This amendment would seek to strike certain modifications to the Military Construction appropriations bill.

I believe that it is essential that this body work with the administration and determine a budget that is best for the Nation. I believe that the process that my subcommittee and Chairman EDWARDS' subcommittee has put in place accomplishes this goal.

For example, the projects that this amendment would seek to strike have been individually reviewed by the administration for cost and the way it's going to be executed. The projects are carefully compared against a very long list of requirements that the Department of Defense has generated. These projects have been included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 that this body has recently passed.

Finally, all of these military construction projects that are included at the end of this process, including all of the projects that this amendment seeks to strike, will be competitively awarded.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Arizona has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Chair, I yield the gentleman another 30 seconds if he wants to finish.

Mr. ORTIZ. We cannot forget the fact that we are involved in two wars. We have soldiers stationed in 120 countries. Whatever we do today, let's do it for our servicepeople. They are my sons and your daughters and family here who are serving our country.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Chair, I plan to withdraw this amendment. I had planned to from the beginning. What I wanted to do was come down here and explain the spoils system that this kind of earmarking represents.

The problem, the gentleman mentioned that this amendment is crafted in a way that it would prohibit the spending of money on these projects. It would. The problem is there is no way to craft an amendment that wouldn't do that.

What we have here is a situation where we simply can't go in and say this is a good earmark and this is not, not through this process. That's part of the whole flawed aspect of what we are doing here and why we need to change this.

But the gentleman is correct, we shouldn't give the administration a free ride to say this is where things ought to be spent. We have the power of the purse. This is article I stuff, and we ought to exercise it.

The problem I have is we basically exercise authority over that much of it and leave the administration with this, instead of saying, through the process of authorization, appropriation, and oversight, we have more control of what the administration is doing.

Instead, we say we don't like the way you are spending this money—we say that to the executive branch—so we are going to run a little parallel track in the Congress where we determine where this much goes. Then when we determine where this much goes, 51 percent of it goes to just 13 percent of this body.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FLAKE. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I appreciate that, and I do respect his principled position on this, not with just this bill but with other bills.

I just want to point out the reason we don't spread out earmarks evenly among 435 Members is military bases in the United States are not spread out evenly among 435 congressional districts. So it is logical and it makes sense and it's good policy that Members that represent military bases get more earmarks than Members that don't represent military bases.

Mr. FLAKE. I think that is a valid point; although, I would argue that Members with military bases don't necessarily align with the 13 percent represented in this chart.

But I would again, before asking unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment, make the case, we will be dealing with another appropriation bill tomorrow that is cleaner than this one in terms of being able to target earmarks and prohibit funding for them and actually save money. The way this bill is structured makes it difficult to do that, but I recognize it.

I just wanted to make the point and to drive it home again, through the process of authorization, appropriation, and oversight, we can do a far better job.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn.

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. HILL

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 111–570.

Mr. HILL. I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 33, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $100,000) (increased by $100,000)''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1559, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. HILL. I want to thank Chairman EDWARDS for crafting this critically important bill for our Nation's veterans.

My amendment simply removes funding from the VA General Operating Expense Account and replaces it back in the very same account. My intent in doing this is to highlight an issue for my colleagues and for the VA.

I believe that the VA needs to examine its practice in how it accounts for returned post-9/11 GI benefit payments and that the VA should submit a report to Congress no later than January 1 of 2011 on changes they intend to make to ensure accurate, timely, and efficient accounting of any returned post-9/11 GI benefit payments.

□ 1750

I, along with many of my colleagues, enthusiastically supported the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008. This law provides qualified veterans with a full 4-year college scholarship, restoring a commitment our country made to our World War II-era veterans.

I believe that the Post-9/11 GI bill can spark another period of economic growth and prosperity for the current generation of veterans, much like the Montgomery GI bill did for the previous generation of veterans. That is why I believe it is so critical that this bill be implemented accurately.

I understand that the VA legitimately requires some payments to veterans and universities to be returned. There can be instances of a student taking fewer classes than what was originally thought, accidentally duplicating payments. This is reasonable to an extent. I believe that these funds need to be accounted for accurately; however, this is a two-way street. It has come to my attention that there has been some difficulty with the VA to properly and accurately account for returned payments from universities and veterans alike. In some instances, this has resulted in the VA withholding further Post-9/11 educational benefit payments to the student in question as they are credited with an outstanding debt despite having already paid back the necessary accounts. This is even after the returned checks have been cashed by the VA. This issue needs to be addressed in a timely manner.

I do not believe that the VA is acting with any malice in this measure, far from it. I applaud the work that the VA is doing to improve the lives of veterans. They deserve this benefit, but they deserve for it to work for them.

Madam Chair, I yield to the chairman, Mr. EDWARDS, for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I thank the gentleman. I support this amendment.

Through no one's malicious intentions, students—our veteran servicemen and -women or their children using the new 21st Century GI Bill—are being punished for mistakes that they did not make, perhaps paperwork mistakes by a school administration or by the VA. The result can be that sometimes students can have halted their additional GI benefits in order to continue college. So this is really an important issue. I salute the gentleman. We are going to see that this issue is solved with his leadership, and I look forward to working with him.

Mr. HILL. I thank the chairman for his support.

This issue was brought to my attention by Indiana University, which is a university that I represent back home in Indiana. I have also been working with a community college, Ivy Tech in Indiana, with the same problem.

I thank the chairman for his support for this amendment, and I encourage my colleagues to support it as well.

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. GINGREY OF GEORGIA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 111–570.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. 5____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to exercise the power of eminent domain (to take private property for public use) without the payment of just compensation.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1559, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chairman, my amendment would prohibit funds in the bill from being used to exercise eminent domain without just compensation to the individuals involved. This is necessary because the Kelo v. City of New London Supreme Court decision expanded the so-called ''public use'' provision of the takings clause of the Fifth Amendment. This decision allows State and local governments to practice eminent domain for the benefit of one private party over another.

In this specific case, Madam Chairman, the City of New London, Connecticut, used its eminent domain authority to actually seize private property to sell to private developers in order to aid a struggling economy in the name of economic development, but not specifically in the traditional interpretation of ''public use.''

Justice John Paul Stevens' majority opinion states that the Fifth Amendment does not require a literal ''public use.'' However, the Fifth Amendment of the document this Nation holds sacred—and I have it right here with me all the time, Madam Chairman—the Fifth Amendment of this document clearly reads: ''Nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.''

This decision represents the disparity between constitutional interpretation and, yes, judicial activism. Governments should solely be allowed to compel an individual to forfeit their property for the public's use, but not for the benefit of another private person.

I agree with the dissenting views in the case which point out that the decision is an intrusion into private citizens' lives, and it picks winners and losers in the private market at the cost of an individual losing their personal property.

Madam Chairman, according to the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, all levels of government have a responsibility and a moral obligation to defend the property rights of individuals and only exercise eminent domain when it's necessary for public use—the literal interpretation of public use—and then just compensation is paid to those affected individuals. Any execution of eminent domain by State and local governments that does not specifically adhere to these requirements constitutes an abuse of government power and a usurpation of the individual property rights as indeed defined in the Fifth Amendment.

My amendment would take one step toward ensuring that property rights of citizens are protected and they are justly compensated when they are taken for public use.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I want to thank the gentleman. I will support his amendment.

I want to make it clear there is nothing, to my knowledge, in this bill intended to allow the exercise of eminent domain without payment of just compensation, but I believe in the principle of just compensation, and I would be glad to support the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank Mr. EDWARDS for that commitment. I certainly appreciate his comments.

Again, I would urge all of my colleagues to support the amendment. Let's end this abuse of eminent domain. Eminent domain is necessary, but it is being abused; this definition of which, with the help of very liberal interpretations by the Supreme Court in some cases, has been blurred to seemingly allow one private entity to benefit over another. That, as the gentleman from Texas indicated, is the intent of the amendment, and I am very grateful for his support.

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. GINGREY OF GEORGIA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 111–570.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to renovate or construct any facility in the continental United States for the purpose of housing any individual who has been detained, at any time after September 11, 2001, at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1559, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to ensure that no funds in this bill are used to construct or to renovate any facility in the United States to house Gitmo detainees.

Now, I realize that the majority will likely support my amendment given that the bill contains no funds for this purpose; but today, Madam Chairman, I want to challenge the Democratic majority to commit to adhering to an underlying principle, that being that it is wholly unnecessary to transfer the detainees and to close Guantanamo Bay, or Gitmo. No matter what appropriations bills we are considering—today, MILCON/VA, when we come back, DOD, Homeland Security, CJS—this fact still holds true.

□ 1800

We have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on the facilities at Gitmo, and the only reason we continue to debate its status is, quite honestly, Madam Chair, for public relations reasons.

As I witnessed most recently in April during my third site visit, the Gitmo detainees are treated with dignity and with respect. They are allowed access to their attorneys. They are allowed access to the International Committee of the Red Cross. They are provided with excellent medical care. As I am a physician Member, I know of what I speak. They are even allowed to live in a communal setting. If they were to consume everything provided to them on a daily basis, they would take in 5,500 calories per day. Indeed, most of them have gained anywhere from 15 to 25 pounds since they were originally detained. Their religious customs in all areas of their lives are respected, and they are provided with everything necessary to observe those customs.

If the world knew how we were actually treating these detainees, we would not be facing the prospect of spending hundreds of millions of dollars more—money that we don't have unless China will continue to lend it to us—to duplicate what we are already doing at Guantanamo Bay.

Madam Chair, transferring the detainees to the United States could eventually lead to their release on American soil, which would put our own citizens at risk. It could create significant immigration issues as aliens could become eligible for asylum or other forms of immigration-related relief from removal. It most certainly would make any facility where they are held a terrorist target.

Not surprisingly, Madam Chair, the American people are overwhelmingly opposed to closing Gitmo. In a March 2010 CNN/Opinion Research Corporation poll, 60 percent of Americans expressed that the United States should continue to operate the detention center at Guantanamo Bay. They understand that the battlefield is not limited to our military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. They have recently witnessed two attempted attacks on our homeland in the skies over Detroit and, indeed, on the streets of New York City.

The American people know that the detainees located at Gitmo are not minor offenders by any means. These detainees include terrorist trainers, terrorist financiers, bomb makers, Osama bin Laden's bodyguards, terrorist recruiters, and would-be suicide bombers. Indeed, one of three adolescents originally detained is currently being tried by a military tribunal. Another, who was released after extensive efforts at rehabilitation, was subsequently killed on the battlefield after returning to the fight in Afghanistan.

Madam Chair, simply put, the American people believe that bringing Guantanamo Bay detainees to American soil for any purpose puts Americans at risk and is a national security threat. It is time this Congress listens to the collective voice of the American people and stops perpetrating the ''Washington knows best'' mindset.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment on this bill—and on all other appropriations bills—to prevent the wholly unnecessary transfer of Gitmo detainees to American soil.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment, though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I will support this amendment, Madam Chair.

I do want to clarify that there is no funding in this bill of any type to fund any kind of facility to house detainees from Guantanamo. Having said that, I would be glad to support the gentleman's amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I want to thank my friend from Texas. In knowing him and his heart, I am not surprised that he would support this amendment, but I want to ask the gentleman a question.

Mr. EDWARDS, can I count on you to commit to supporting this amendment in future appropriations bills so that we can end the debate as to whether Guantanamo Bay should be closed once and for all?

I hope the gentleman will answer the question.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MRS. HALVORSON

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 111–570.

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 33, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,000,000)''.

Page 36, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1559, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. HALVORSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

Mrs. HALVORSON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I would first like to take a moment and praise Chairman OBEY and Chairman EDWARDS for their continued commitment to caring for American veterans. Three-and-a-half years ago, their committee made a commitment and renewed the promise to care for those who have served in our armed services. They have kept that promise and have dramatically increased funding for our veterans by 70 percent since 2007.

As the only Member of Congress from Illinois who sits on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I really can speak to the critical need that these funds have addressed for Illinois veterans.

Madam Chair, my amendment is simple. It adds $10 million to the VA Major Construction Project and subtracts $10 million from the general operating expenses. Much of the VA medical infrastructure is aging, outdated and, in many cases, obsolete.

According to the 2011 Independent Budget, which is written by some of the largest Veteran Service Organizations, a great number of current medical facilities were built after World War II and were constructed with structurally obsolete designs which ''typically do not meet the needs of modern health care delivery.'' The result of these outdated buildings has left the VA with a long list of major construction projects, which are just sitting there, waiting for congressional funding.

Right now, there are over 60 medical construction projects in the backlog. That means that there are over 60 locations that are in need of major construction, renovation, or modification. It means that there are 60 locations where our veterans are not receiving optimal care in modern facilities. Unfortunately, this bill was only able to address a total of five of these projects, and only two of them are new medical facilities.

With more women and men servicemembers transitioning from active duty to VA care and with multiple illnesses, such as PTSD and TBI, we will require even more new and modified medical facilities. Though $10 million is far less than what is needed to address these aging medical facilities' infrastructures and construction needs, the amendment will still play a role in ensuring that more veterans are receiving the care they deserve in a modern and quality health care facility. This amendment is also supported by the American Legion.

I urge my colleagues to stand up and to support modern medical facilities for our veterans and to vote ''yes'' on this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Chair, I claim time in opposition, though I am not opposed to the gentlewoman's amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I have a couple of questions.

We have a process for building outpatient clinics. I just wondered: Does this amendment, in any way, try to circumvent the process? Does it direct where the money would be spent in any way?

I yield to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. HALVORSON. Absolutely not.

You have the amendment, as do I, and it just takes $10 million out of the general operating to put it into major construction.

You know, there are needs everywhere. I wish it were in some way to help my district. We have needs, but it does not help my district. This major construction is $28 million less than it was last year. So I would like to see that we gradually get it back up to the $28 million at least that it was last year.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Reclaiming my time, the amendment allows the VA to use this funding at any location that it seeks?

Mrs. HALVORSON. At any location anywhere. I wish I could say that it were for someplace special, but it is not.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Reclaiming my time, I would just point out to the gentlewoman that there is $1.166 billion for construction. That is $15 million above the request.

I can appreciate that the gentlewoman would like to spend even more and that she, apparently, is not trying to circumvent the process, because a lot of people would like to have clinics in their districts, and a lot of people have been waiting in line and have been watching this process work, but if it doesn't seek to spend it at any one location, then that is helpful to me.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1810

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Chairman, our veterans deserve the best care in the world and at the best and most modern medical facilities, and that's why we're working to accomplish this here. And in this body we need to keep those promises. This is something that is very important, I think, to all of us here in Congress.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. HALVORSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. BILIRAKIS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in House Report 111–570.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 38, line 18, before the period insert the following: '': *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $9,500,000 shall be for the acquisition, construction, and alteration of up to four post-acute long-term care residential brain injury medical facilities pursuant to section 8103 of title 38, United States Code''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1559, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Chair, my amendment would provide $9.5 million to acquire and construct up to four long-term care residential brain injury medical facilities.

The primary danger faced by our troops in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom comes in the form of improvised explosive devices. When an IED explodes, the blast wave can result in our servicemembers incurring catastrophic injuries including amputations, spinal cord injuries, visual and auditory impairments, traumatic brain injury, and posttraumatic stress.

Wounded warriors with these complex injuries require a high level of health care coordination with an interdisciplinary clinical support team and a wide range of specialized services. Since 2003, almost 2,000 severely injured servicemembers have received state-of-the-art care at one of the Department of Veterans Affairs four Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers.

But what happens to these heroes when they are discharged? Some of them require intensive medical care for the rest of their lives. My amendment addresses the problem of how to provide ongoing recovery for these wounded warriors.

These heroes honorably served their country. Now we have to step up to meet our obligation to them. They need a place to go that will provide for post-acute long-term care, subacute residential rehabilitation, and outpatient day rehabilitation with the dignity, respect, and honor they have earned.

Their families, who are enduring the extreme stress of having one of their own come home with catastrophic injuries, also need this long-term care facility for their loved ones.

My amendment will enable the VA to construct facilities that are specifically designed to provide ongoing recovery for wounded warriors. Such facilities will enable families to visit in an atmosphere that is conducive to the rehabilitation and the reintegration.

These facilities will be paid for with existing funds within the VA's budget and will allow the VA to select locations that are close enough to existing VA medical facilities to ensure that intensive, ongoing medical and specialist care is easily provided. At the same time, the facility can be in a location that would be natural and, importantly, family friendly.

By supporting my amendment, you will be requiring funds already available to the VA to be directed toward relieving the obvious need for long-term, ongoing recovery for our veterans suffering from TBI and other polytrauma injuries.

A properly selected and designed facility is so important, Madam Chair. My amendment will enable medical specialists from the VA to develop a special plan to allow our veterans to heal. That is so important. It should be our top priority. A doctor would be able to look in the eyes of a wounded warrior and tell him or her, This is your home, and we are going to help you participate in society and visit with your family.

The facilities my amendment would promote, Madam Chairman, would enable our young wounded warriors to focus on hope and to focus on honor and have hope for a future. We owe them that, Madam Chair. Let's give them that.

I ask my colleagues to recognize the extreme difficulty faced by our catastrophically wounded warriors. Show them your support and vote ''yes'' on the Bilirakis amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise to claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas). The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I want to salute the gentleman's focus, his genuine commitment on the important need of providing long-term care for our veterans and wounded warriors with traumatic brain injury.

I care deeply about this. We all care deeply about it. In fact, several years ago I personally put the money in our VA appropriations bill to build a new polytrauma center where there was not one in the entire southwestern part of the United States.

I wish the gentleman could agree to work with the majority and the minority, the conference committee, to try to find a way to also work with the VA to find a way to address the very important needs that he is wanting to address.

If he's not willing to pull this amendment down, I must reluctantly rise in opposition to it for several reasons:

First, the VA is studying this issue right now, and we ought to sit down with them and find out what they have learned and what they think are the best ways to use taxpayers' dollars to address these needs.

Secondly, I don't know if we need four of these long-term centers or six or eight or 10. Rather than spending money on four centers, perhaps it would be better to do smaller renovations on 10 to 20 centers where our traumatically injured veterans could receive care closer to the homes of their loved ones.

Third, I don't know what the full cost of this is going to be. The $9.5 million doesn't, I don't think, even come close to providing for the full cost of the construction of these four projects. Perhaps the gentleman could help illuminate for all of us both the cost of the construction plus the cost of the operations of those centers. And there are a lot of unanswered questions, important questions, such as: Where would the staff come from to man these centers? Would they come from existing VA facilities? I don't know. Perhaps there are good answers to those questions. I just don't think the committee has them at this point.

Finally, there are pay-fors on this. The consequences of how this gentleman would pay for these would be that we would have a domiciliary extended-stay unit would not be replaced in Butler, Pennsylvania; a kidney dialysis unit expansion would not occur in Richmond, Virginia; an ambulatory surgery center would not be completed in Albuquerque, New Mexico; an urgent care center will not be renovated at Castle Point, New York; and a psychiatric residential rehab facility will not be replaced in Perry Point, Maryland.

It was not the intention of the gentleman to try to prevent these five important projects from being completed, but it is the consequence of his amendment as written.

I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS). I support the underlying goal of the gentleman's amendment to acquire and construct long-term residential medical facilities for veterans suffering from traumatic brain injury; however, this designation will jeopardize other important construction projects because it is offset by a decrease in what is called the minor projects construction account.

This would jeopardize an important project in my district at the Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Hospital. And if this amendment is adopted, it would hinder the expansion of McGuire's dialysis unit. This is an important project and will improve services that many veterans in the Richmond area need very desperately.

So I appreciate the gentleman's intent; however, I believe that circumventing the Veterans Affairs Department's construction priorities is an inappropriate way to achieve that goal. The Nation has promised our veterans access to quality health care services, and we owe them to ensure that those services are there.

So, Madam Chairman, I would urge the rejection of this amendment so that the underlying projects can go forward.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I would be glad to yield.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. EDWARDS, I appreciate the concerns that have been raised here, and I think, as you point out, this is a very important subject, very worthwhile. And to the question of where the money comes from, those minor construction projects, I think everyone has a concern about that.

□ 1820

But I think if Mr. BILIRAKIS is willing to work, there is probably a way to find an offset that doesn't impact the minor construction. There are some funds, as you know, that might be available. And I would encourage Mr. BILIRAKIS, with your commitment, to say let's try to figure out a way to do this, find a way to pay for it, find out what the real costs are. And it says up to four. Maybe there is a way just to begin that process, because we know, based on what Mr. KENNEDY had said earlier, it's a very, very important issue.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Reclaiming my time, if Mr. BILIRAKIS would be willing to ask unanimous consent to bring down his amendment, I will make my genuine commitment to work with him, because I salute him for pointing out the important need that needs to be addressed here.

I'll work with Mr. CRENSHAW, the acting ranking member, Mr. WAMP, the ranking member of the subcommittee, and we will get together with the VA and try to find a pay-for that doesn't take away from awfully important projects such as Mr. SCOTT's in Virginia and others.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. If you would agree to work with me on this particular amendment—this is a very important project, as you know. We do have our polytrauma centers, but we need the long-term care for our heroes. And this is a top priority of mine. If you would

agree to work with me on this, then I will withdraw.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. If the gentleman will yield, I appreciate that. I will work in good faith. And let's see if by working with the VA, the majority and minority, see if we can find a way to most efficiently and effectively take care of these great Americans that have suffered such a sacrifice on behalf of our country, and do so without impacting these other important projects throughout the country.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I would join in support of this. Traumatic brain injuries is a very important problem that we need to deal with. I would join in support of that and work with you as long as you do not affect the other projects.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Reclaiming my time, I have studied this issue, and it's a top priority of mine. We need to get this done. So thank you for your willingness to work with me.

With that, I appreciate the gentleman's willingness, as I said, to work with me. I look forward to doing so.

Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. PETERS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in House Report 111–570.

Mr. PETERS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 33, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced by $50,000) (increased by $50,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1559, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, in the interests of common sense, I rise today to offer an amendment that will save taxpayer dollars by reducing waste in prescription medications at the VA. Currently, whenever patients leave a VA hospital, leftover medications like eye drops and inhalers are just thrown away. Often, veterans would have to go right to the pharmacy to refill what was discarded.

My amendment simply directs the VA to implement a program that would re-label prescription drugs used in VA hospitals to be sent home with discharged patients for outpatient use. My amendment offers a simple, commonsense change that will save taxpayers an estimated $14 million over 10 years, while saving patients both time and effort.

I am proud that this amendment has the support of the American Legion and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and urge its passage here today.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I just want to commend the gentleman. This is such a good amendment. Sometimes common sense can prevail, because it certainly makes no sense to take drugs that a veteran is using, prescription drugs used in a VA hospital, and then have a half a bottle or three-quarters of a bottle of those pills left, have to throw them away, and then go directly to the pharmacy at the VA hospital to get those exact same prescription drugs to take for use at home.

So this is going to save taxpayers money. And every dollar that's saved can be put back into much-needed medical care for our veterans. So I am thrilled to support the gentleman's amendment and salute him for working on this.

Mr. PETERS. Madam Chair, my amendment is a commonsense change and saves taxpayers money, saves time and effort for veterans. I urge passage.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. PETERS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. PETERS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in House Report 111–570.

Mr. PETERS. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 33, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $150,000) (increased by $150,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1559, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, while I applaud the progress this Congress has made in ensuring that our Nation's veterans receive the care they deserve, and the efforts of Secretary Shinseki in making the VA a more proactive institution, we must continue to work to improve the responsiveness of the VA both in terms of treatment our veterans receive and the care with which the VA or any agency handles taxpayer money.

It is in this spirit that I am offering my amendment to the MILCON-VA Appropriations Act. My amendment works to both increase the efficiency in which the VA obligates funds, and the speed at which necessary contracts for supplies and services are fulfilled.

The VA Office of Inspector General audited a sample of over 18,000 VA contracts which identified some areas of concern regarding contracts that remain unfulfilled. With little or no oversight for months of these contracts, the OIG projected that $55 million a year, and $261 million over 5 years, could be put to better use.

By conducting a simple review after a period of 90 days in which the contract is inactive in fulfilling the contract, millions of dollars can be de-obligated from contracts that no longer need to be fulfilled or can be fulfilled in a more productive manner.

The American Legion agrees with my amendment as a commonsense change and step in the right direction, and I urge its passage here today.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I once again on this amendment want to thank the gentleman for bringing this before the House. This could save up to $55 million in taxpayer funding according to the Inspector General. It's a good amendment, and I am glad to support it.

Mr. PETERS. My amendment is a commonsense change that frees taxpayer dollars for better use to care for our veterans, and I urge its passage here today.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. PETERS).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1830

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. GARRETT OF NEW JERSEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 14 printed in House Report 111–570.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 38, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(decreased by $7,000,000)''.

Page 39, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $7,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1559, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I thank the Chair.

This amendment would increase the amount of funding for grants for construction of States veterans cemeteries by $7 million while reducing funding for grants for construction of minor projects by an equal amount.

The VA provides funding for State veterans cemeteries through the grants for construction of State veterans cemeteries program. All pending projects are evaluated by the VA and ranked in order of priority. This is not an earmark program. It is a competitive ranking process.

The current priority list shows that there are $121 million worth of projects where the State matching funds are already in place. More than half of these projects—totaling $70 million—are still awaiting Federal matching grants. Yet the appropriations bill we are considering today provides only $46 million for grants for construction of State veterans cemeteries.

The first priority for the State cemetery program is to provide funding for the expansion of existing cemeteries. The second priority is for the construction of new cemeteries according to geographical need. The third is for improvements to existing cemeteries. So what this means is that existing cemeteries which require improvements do not receive the necessary funding.

For example, my State of New Jersey is home to the BGWC Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery. This cemetery is the busiest State veterans cemetery in the Nation. On average, it has seven burials per day. For the past 2 years, the cemetery has had two important improvement projects with State grants in place, but there hasn't been sufficient funding for matching Federal grants.

The following States also have a State matching grant but have at least one unfunded project: Tennessee, Minnesota, Kentucky, Alabama, California, Idaho, South Dakota, Hawaii, Maryland, Montana, Virginia, Nevada and Maine.

To make matters worse, the State veterans cemetery grant program has been underfunded over the past several years, even though the number of World War II veterans that are needing interments is rapidly increasing. VA and VFW officials at both the State and national level agree that there is a need for an overall increase to the annual budget of the grants to State cemeteries program. In fact, it is one of their top priorities.

This bipartisan amendment would increase the amount for this program by $7 million. This amendment would simultaneously decrease by $7 million the amount for the minor projects. However, the construction of minor project account is already fully funded at a level that is $40 million above both the VA and the President's budget requests.

Last year, during consideration of the FY10 MILCON–VA appropriations bill, I introduced an almost identical amendment. The only difference was that the amount of increase/decrease was $4 million rather than $7 million. That amendment passed this House by voice vote.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise to claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I will salute the gentleman from New Jersey for focusing on the need to fund our State veterans cemeteries. I believe in those cemeteries. I think they're an important partnership between the Federal Government and our State governments. So I have absolutely no objection to his wanting to try to find additional funding for State cemeteries.

However, I will object and ask my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this amendment because of the way in which he pays for it. While not intended in any way, it just turns out the money that he would be taking out of the VA minor construction project would come out of these specific projects:

A domiciliary extended stay unit will not be replaced in Butler, Pennsylvania; a kidney dialysis unit expansion will not occur in Richmond, Virginia; an ambulatory surgery center will not be completed in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and an urgent care center will not be renovated at Castle Point, New York.

So you have an amendment that won't even guarantee that even one dime of this amendment's funding will go to State veterans cemeteries in New Jersey. In fact, the last list I saw the VA has put out officially has the New Jersey project significantly down the list. But regardless of that, I think it's just not right to take funding out of these much-needed health care construction projects.

I would like to yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) for any time he would care to consume.

Mr. ALTMIRE. I thank the chairman.

Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the Garrett amendment to the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill which would transfer $7 million in funding for the grants for construction, minor projects account into another unrelated account. This amendment would adversely affect veterans in my district by shifting funding away from priority construction projects, such as the domiciliary extended stay unit in Butler, Pennsylvania. That facility is a vital source of shelter and rehabilitation for homeless veterans in western Pennsylvania, and I will not allow its upkeep and improvement to be compromised by this type of unwise amendment.

Last-minute shifts in funding for parochial concerns take away from priority projects and plans that the VA has determined to be necessary for veterans' health and safety nationwide. I ask my colleagues to join me in strongly opposing the Garrett amendment to prevent harmful construction project cuts for the VA.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I would like to now yield time to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, I too rise in opposition to the amendment.

As it has been said before, this would jeopardize the dialysis unit in the McGuire Hospital in Richmond. Although I appreciate the gentleman from New Jersey's intent, I do not believe that shortchanging important projects at the VA to improve and expand quality health care for our veterans is the appropriate way to achieve that goal. We have promised our veterans health care and decreases in what is called the minor projects account will actually jeopardize important projects all over the country, including one in Richmond, Virginia.

I urge my colleagues to reject the amendment. Hopefully we can work out some other pay-for. But we do not want it taken out of the projects in Richmond, Virginia; Pennsylvania; and other projects around the country.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I now yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. HALL of New York. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I rise in opposition to the amendment, although I do support the underlying intent; but not, however, the pay-for.

One project that would be affected by this cutback is the renovation of the urgent care center at Castle Point, New York, a VA hospital that was built in 1926. It's the oldest VA hospital in the country and has never undergone a major renovation. The project would dramatically increase urgent care capacity at Castle Point and make the facility more accommodating for female veterans who are increasingly a large part of our force.

I ask that before you vote on this measure, please take a moment to consider the unintended consequences and the negative consequences, not just in the Hudson Valley but across the country.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, do I have any time remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Let me just conclude by saying no one objects to the gentleman's goal. We would be glad to try to work in good faith to see if we can find another pay-for to improve funding for our veterans cemeteries. But I will strongly object and ask my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this amendment because of the damage done to veterans at these facilities that need the care that they would otherwise not get if this amendment is passed into law.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Chair, I would just remind the gentleman that the money you appropriated is already $40 million over what the President asked for and also what the VA asked for.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE).

Mr. LANCE. Madam Chair, I rise in support of Congressman GARRETT's amendment also sponsored in a bipartisan capacity by Congressman ADLER on the other side of the aisle and by me. This is bipartisan in nature, and, of course, we believe that across the country, veterans and their families

are dealing with the hardships of overcrowded and unkempt State cemeteries.

For example, in New Jersey there is only one State veterans cemetery that is currently available for new burials—the Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown, in southern New Jersey, not in my district and not in Congressman GARRETT's district, but this is bipartisan in nature on our side of the aisle; and certainly we think that this amendment will help fund these projects and reduce existing backlogs in the State veterans cemetery grant program.

I certainly concur with Congressman GARRETT's point of view that the funding is already over what has been requested by the administration and we believe strongly that this is in the best interest of the United States.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. May I inquire of the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. In conclusion, I will end where I started, and that is to say, there is a need for the cemeteries not just in the state of New Jersey but across the country as well. In a bipartisan manner we passed this bill with the support presumably from the chairman last year in a similar manner as we are doing this year. As was stated already, the amount of money that is already appropriated is $40 million more than not only what the White House wants but also what the VA wants.

I do find it curious that the chairman is able to come to the floor and cite specifically what programs would be cut when our staff tried diligently through the committee to ask them to identify exactly which ones would be cut and we could never get an answer from them as to what would be cut whatsoever with regard to priorities. Now the chair comes and says, well, this program, this program, and this program will be cut.

□ 1840

How can anybody say it's being cut when we're already spending $40 million more than what the VA and the administration is asking for?

This is a duty that we owe to our veterans, and we should do it in a proper manner, and we should do it now. We should not be pointing fingers saying that we want a cut from this or a cut from that. We have set out the program this year as we have done in the past. And we should meet that moral obligation.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 111–570 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 9 by Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

Amendment No. 14 by Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. GINGREY OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 353, noes 69, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 480]

AYES—353

Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Alexander
Altmire
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Critz
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Djou
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (TX)
Ellsworth
Emerson
Eshoo
Etheridge
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOES—69

Baird
Baldwin
Becerra
Berman
Blumenauer
Bordallo
Braley (IA)
Capps
Castor (FL)
Christensen
Chu
Clay
Cohen
Davis (IL)
DeGette
Dingell
Doggett
Edwards (MD)
Ellison
Engel
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Harman
Hinchey
Honda
Inslee
Israel
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kucinich
Lee (CA)
Lofgren, Zoe
McDermott
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (NY)
Nadler (NY)
Norton
Olver
Pastor (AZ)
Pierluisi
Pingree (ME)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Sablan
Sánchez, Linda T.
Schakowsky
Scott (VA)
Sestak
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Towns
Tsongas
Velázquez

Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Woolsey
Wu

NOT VOTING—16

Akin
Andrews
Cleaver
Crowley
Davis (AL)
Ehlers
Faleomavaega
Fallin
Hoekstra
Lewis (GA)
Slaughter
Stark
Tiahrt
Wamp
Watson
Young (FL)

□ 1911

Mr. ELLISON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CLAY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Messrs. DAVIS of Illinois, DOGGETT, INSLEE, COHEN and SCOTT of Virginia changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Mr. POLIS, Ms. RICHARDSON, Messrs. AL GREEN of Texas, SERRANO, MCGOVERN, MINNICK and GEORGE MILLER of California changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. GARRETT OF NEW JERSEY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 128, noes 296, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 481]

AYES—128

Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Cassidy
Chaffetz
Cole
Conaway
Crenshaw
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
Deutch
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dreier
Duncan
Emerson
Flake
Fleming
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Graves (MO)
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Hodes
Holt
Hunter
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
King (NY)
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
LaTourette
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McMahon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mitchell
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Olson
Pallone
Pascrell
Paul
Pence
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Price (GA)
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Roskam
Rothman (NJ)
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Shadegg
Simpson
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stearns
Sullivan
Walden
Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)
Wu

NOES—296

Ackerman
Altmire
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccieri
Boozman
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Butterfield
Camp
Cao
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Childers
Christensen
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Dicks
Dingell
Djou
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Ellsworth
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gerlach
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves (GA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Holden
Honda
Hoyer
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Miller (FL)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Minnick
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Norton
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Pierluisi
Platts
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sablan
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Skelton
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—14

Akin
Andrews
Crowley
Ehlers
Faleomavaega
Fallin
Hoekstra
Lewis (GA)
Moran (KS)
Slaughter
Tiahrt
Wamp
Watson
Young (FL)

□ 1919

Mr. ROONEY changed his vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

This Act may be cited as the ''Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2011''.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BALDWIN) having assumed the chair, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, 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. 5822) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes, and pursuant to House Resolution 1559, reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 1559, the question on adoption of the amendments will be put en gros.

The question is on the amendments.

The amendments were 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.

Under clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 6, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 482]

YEAS—411

Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Alexander
Altmire
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett

Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Critz
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Djou
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NAYS—6

Campbell
Duncan
Flake
Johnson (IL)
Paul
Sensenbrenner

NOT VOTING—15

Akin
Andrews
Braley (IA)
Crowley
Ehlers
Fallin
Hoekstra
Lewis (GA)
Moran (KS)
Slaughter
Tiahrt
Wamp
Waters
Watson
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members have 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1937

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TONKO). 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 on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

GENERAL AND SPECIAL RISK INSURANCE FUNDS AVAILABILITY ACT OF 2010

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5872) to provide adequate commitment authority for fiscal year 2010 for guaranteed loans that are obligations of the General and Special Risk Insurance Funds of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5872

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 ''General and Special Risk Insurance Funds Availability Act of 2010''.

SEC. 2. ADEQUATE COMMITMENT AUTHORITY.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for fiscal year 2010 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may enter into commitments to guarantee loans, as authorized by sections 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z–3 and 1735c), in an amount not exceeding $20,000,000,000 in total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed.

SEC. 3. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go- Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

□ 1940

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The FHA has become a very successful program. It has taken up a lot of the slack that was created by problems elsewhere in the housing area. It is being run very well. Secretary Donovan and Administrator Stevens deserve a great deal of credit.

In a bipartisan way, the Committee on Financial Services has cooperated with them. We recently passed a bill, again a bipartisan bill, and the ranking member of the Housing Subcommittee, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) is here, to enhance their authority to allow them to do a better job statutorily of guarding against abuse and fraud.

The program's been sufficiently successful so that they have now run out of commitment authority. This bill would give them $5 billion more in commitment authority. But it is not an expenditure. Indeed, it is the opposite. This will save $94 million because we have structured the FHA today, and it's being run in a way that it makes a small profit for the Federal Government.