

the resolution (H. Res. 729) expressing support for the expeditious consideration and finalization of a new, robust, and long-term Memorandum of Understanding on military assistance to Israel between the United States Government and the Government of Israel on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 4, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 504]

YEAS—405

Abraham Connelly Granger  
 Adams Conyers Graves (GA)  
 Aderholt Cook Graves (LA)  
 Aguilar Cooper Graves (MO)  
 Allen Costa Grayson  
 Ashford Costello (PA) Green, Al  
 Babin Courtney Green, Gene  
 Barletta Cramer Griffith  
 Barr Crawford Grijalva  
 Barton Crenshaw Grothman  
 Bass Crowley Gutierrez  
 Beatty Cuellar Hahn  
 Becerra Culberson Hanna  
 Benishkek Cummings Hardy  
 Bera Curbelo (FL) Harper  
 Beyer Davidson Harris  
 Billirakis Davis (CA) Hartzler  
 Bishop (GA) Davis, Danny Hastings  
 Bishop (MI) Davis, Rodney Heck (NV)  
 Bishop (UT) DeFazio Heck (WA)  
 Black DeGette Hensarling  
 Blackburn Delaney Herrera Beutler  
 Blum DeLauro Hice, Jody B.  
 Blumenauer DelBene Higgins  
 Bonamici Denham Hill  
 Bost Dent Himes  
 Boustany DeSantis Holding  
 Boyle, Brendan DeSaulnier Honda  
 F. Deutch Hoyer  
 Brady (TX) Diaz-Balart Hudson  
 Brat Dingell Huelskamp  
 Bridenstine Doggett Huffman  
 Brooks (AL) Dold Huizenga (MI)  
 Brooks (IN) Donovan Hultgren  
 Brown (FL) Doyle, Michael Hunter  
 Brownley (CA) F. Hurd (TX)  
 Buchanan Duffy Hurt (VA)  
 Buck Duncan (SC) Issa  
 Buechson Edwards Jackson Lee  
 Burgess Ellison Jeffries  
 Bustos Ellmers (NC) Jenkins (KS)  
 Butterfield Emmer (MN) Jenkins (WV)  
 Byrne Engel Johnson (GA)  
 Calvert Eshoo Johnson (OH)  
 Capps Esty Johnson, E. B.  
 Capuano Farenthold Jolly  
 Cárdenas Farr Jordan  
 Carney Fitzpatrick Joyce  
 Carson (IN) Fleischmann Kaptur  
 Carter (GA) Fleming Katko  
 Carter (TX) Flores Keating  
 Cartwright Forbes Kelly (IL)  
 Castor (FL) Fortenberry Kelly (MS)  
 Castro (TX) Foster Kelly (PA)  
 Chabot Foxx Kennedy  
 Chaffetz Frankel (FL) Kildee  
 Chu, Judy Franks (AZ) Kilmer  
 Clark (MA) Frelinghuysen Kind  
 Clarke (NY) Fudge King (IA)  
 Clawson (FL) Gabbard King (NY)  
 Clay Gallego Kinzinger (IL)  
 Cleaver Garamendi Kline  
 Clyburn Garrett Knight  
 Coffman Gibbs Kuster  
 Cohen Gibson Labrador  
 Cole Gohmert LaHood  
 Collins (GA) Goodlatte LaMalfa  
 Collins (NY) Gosar Lamborn  
 Comstock Gowdy Lance  
 Conaway Graham Langevin

Larsen (WA) Palmer  
 Larson (CT) Pascrell  
 Latta Paulsen  
 Lawrence Pearce  
 Lee Perlmutter  
 Levin Perry  
 Lewis Peters  
 Lieu, Ted Peterson  
 Lipinski Pingree  
 LoBiondo Pittenger  
 Loeb sack Pitts  
 Lofgren Pocan  
 Long Poe (TX)  
 Loudermilk Poliquin  
 Love Polis  
 Lowenthal Pompeo  
 Lowey Price (NC)  
 Lucas Price, Tom  
 Luetkemeyer Quigley  
 Lujan Grisham (NM) Rangel  
 Lummis Ratcliffe  
 Lynch Reed  
 MacArthur Reichert  
 Maloney, Carolyn Renacci  
 Maloney, Sean Ribble  
 Marchant Rice (NY)  
 Marino Rice (SC)  
 Matsui Richmond  
 McCarthy Roby  
 McCaul Roe (TN)  
 McClintock Rogers (AL)  
 McCollum Rogers (KY)  
 McDermott Rohrabacher  
 McGovern Rokita  
 McHenry Rooney (FL)  
 McKinley Ros-Lehtinen  
 McMorris Roskam  
 Rodgers Ross  
 McNeerney Rothfus  
 McSally Rouzer  
 Meadows Roybal-Allard  
 Meehan Royce  
 Messer Ruiz  
 Mica Ruppersberger  
 Miller (FL) Russell  
 Miller (MI) Ryan (OH)  
 Moolenaar Salmon  
 Mooney (WV) Sánchez, Linda  
 Moore T.  
 Moulton Sanchez, Loretta  
 Mullin Sanford  
 Mulvaney Sarbanes  
 Murphy (FL) Scalise  
 Murphy (PA) Schakowsky  
 Nadler Schrader  
 Napolitano Schweikert  
 Neugebauer Scott (VA)  
 Newhouse Scott, Austin  
 Noem Scott, David  
 Nolan Sensenbrenner  
 Norcross Serrano  
 Nugent Sessions  
 Nunes Sherman  
 O'Rourke Shimkus  
 Olson Shuster  
 Pallone Simpson

NAYS—4

Amash Jones  
 Duncan (TN) Massie

NOT VOTING—22

Amodei Hinojosa Neal  
 Brady (PA) Israel Palazzo  
 Cicilline Johnson, Sam Payne  
 DesJarlais Kirkpatrick Pelosi  
 Duckworth Lujan, Ben Ray Rush  
 Fincher (NM) Schiff  
 Guinta Meeks Sewell (AL)  
 Guthrie Meng

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1703

Mr. CARSON of Indiana changed his vote from “present” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall 502, “yea” on rollcall 503, and “yea” on rollcall 504.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5351, PROHIBITING THE TRANSFER OF ANY DETAINEE AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5226, REGULATORY INTEGRITY ACT OF 2016

Mr. BYRNE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-744) on the resolution (H. Res. 863) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5351) to prohibit the transfer of any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5226) to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of information relating to pending agency regulatory actions, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5985) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5985

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2016”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.  
 Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

Sec. 3. Scoring of budgetary effects.

**TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Sec. 101. Extension of authority for collection of copayments for hospital care and nursing home care.  
 Sec. 102. Extension of requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities.  
 Sec. 103. Extension of authorization of appropriations for assistance and support services for caregivers.  
 Sec. 104. Extension of authority for recovery from third parties of cost of care and services furnished to veterans with health-plan contracts for non-service-connected disability.

- Sec. 105. Extension of authority for pilot program on assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care.
- Sec. 106. Extension of authority to make grants to veterans service organizations for transportation of highly rural veterans.
- Sec. 107. Extension of authority for pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service.
- Sec. 108. Extension of deadline for report on pilot program on use of community-based organizations and local and State government entities to ensure that veterans receive care and benefits for which they are eligible.

**TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO BENEFITS**

- Sec. 201. Extension of authority for the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education.
- Sec. 202. Extension of authority for calculating net value of real property at time of foreclosure.
- Sec. 203. Extension of authority relating to vendee loans.
- Sec. 204. Extension of authority to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses.

**TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HOMELESS VETERANS**

- Sec. 301. Extension of authority for homeless veterans reintegration programs.
- Sec. 302. Extension of authority for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration program.
- Sec. 303. Extension of authority for referral and counseling services for veterans at risk of homelessness transitioning from certain institutions.
- Sec. 304. Extension of authority to provide housing assistance for homeless veterans.
- Sec. 305. Extension and modification of authority to provide financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.
- Sec. 306. Extension of authority for grant program for homeless veterans with special needs.
- Sec. 307. Extension of authority for the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.
- Sec. 308. Extension of authority for treatment and rehabilitation services for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans.

**TITLE IV—OTHER EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AUTHORITY AND OTHER MATTERS**

- Sec. 401. Extension of authority for transportation of individuals to and from Department facilities.
- Sec. 402. Extension of authority for operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs regional office in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines.
- Sec. 403. Extension of authority for monthly assistance allowances under the Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events.
- Sec. 404. Extension of requirement to provide reports to Congress regarding equitable relief in the case of administrative error.

- Sec. 405. Extension of authorization of appropriations for adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

- Sec. 406. Extension of authority for Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans.
- Sec. 407. Modification to authorization of appropriations for comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans.
- Sec. 408. Extension of authority for temporary expansion of eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance for certain veterans with disabilities causing difficulty ambulating.
- Sec. 409. Extension of authority for specially adapted housing assistive technology grant program.
- Sec. 410. Extension of authority to guarantee payment of principal and interest on certificates or other securities.
- Sec. 411. Extension of authority to enter into agreement with the National Academy of Sciences regarding associations between diseases and exposure to dioxin and other chemical compounds in herbicides.
- Sec. 412. Extension of authority for performance of medical disabilities examinations by contract physicians.
- Sec. 413. Restoration of prior reporting fee multipliers.
- Sec. 414. Extension of requirement for annual report on Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Interagency Program Office.
- Sec. 415. Extension of authority to approve courses of education in cases of withdrawal of recognition of accrediting agency by Secretary of Education.

**SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

**SEC. 3. SCORING OF 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.

**TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

**SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTION OF COPAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL CARE AND NURSING HOME CARE.**

Section 1710(f)(2)(B) is amended by striking "September 30, 2016" and inserting "September 30, 2017".

**SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE NURSING HOME CARE TO CERTAIN VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.**

Section 1710A(d) is amended by striking "December 31, 2016" and inserting "December 31, 2017".

**SEC. 103. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR CAREGIVERS.**

Section 1720G(e) is amended—

- (1) in paragraph (2), by striking "and";
- (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and
- (3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) \$734,628,000 for fiscal year 2017.”.

**SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR RECOVERY FROM THIRD PARTIES OF COST OF CARE AND SERVICES FURNISHED TO VETERANS WITH HEALTH-PLAN CONTRACTS FOR NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.**

Section 1729(a)(2)(E) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "October 1, 2016" and inserting "October 1, 2017".

**SEC. 105. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM ON ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS RECEIVING HEALTH CARE.**

(a) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (e) of section 205 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1144; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking "December 31, 2016" and inserting "December 31, 2017".

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Subsection (h) of such section is amended by striking "and 2016" and inserting "2016, and 2017".

**SEC. 106. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS TO VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF HIGHLY RURAL VETERANS.**

Section 307(d) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1154; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking "2016" and inserting "2017".

**SEC. 107. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM ON COUNSELING IN RETREAT SETTINGS FOR WOMEN VETERANS NEWLY SEPARATED FROM SERVICE.**

(a) EXTENSION.—Subsection (d) of section 203 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1143; 38 U.S.C. 1712A) is amended by striking "December 31, 2016" and inserting "December 31, 2017".

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended by striking "and 2016" and inserting "2016, and 2017".

**SEC. 108. EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR REPORT ON PILOT PROGRAM ON USE OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT ENTITIES TO ENSURE THAT VETERANS RECEIVE CARE AND BENEFITS FOR WHICH THEY ARE ELIGIBLE.**

Section 506(g)(1) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 38 U.S.C. 523 note) is amended by striking "180 days after the completion of the pilot program" and inserting "September 30, 2017".

**TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO BENEFITS**

**SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE VETERANS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.**

Section 3692(c) is amended by striking "December 31, 2016" and inserting "December 31, 2017".

**SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR CALCULATING NET VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY AT TIME OF FORECLOSURE.**

Section 3732(c)(11) is amended by striking "October 1, 2016" and inserting "October 1, 2017".

**SEC. 203. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO VENDEE LOANS.**

Section 3733(a)(7) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "September 30, 2016" and inserting "September 30, 2017"; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking "September 30, 2016," and inserting "September 30, 2017,".

**SEC. 204. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH SEVERE INJURIES OR ILLNESSES.**

Section 1631(b)(2) of the Wounded Warrior Act (title XVI of Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 458; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

**TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HOMELESS VETERANS**

**SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.**

Section 2021(e)(1)(F) is amended by striking “2016” and inserting “2017”.

**SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS AND HOMELESS VETERANS WITH CHILDREN REINTEGRATION PROGRAM.**

Section 2021A(f)(1) is amended by striking “2016” and inserting “2017”.

**SEC. 303. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR REFERRAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR VETERANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS TRANSITIONING FROM CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.**

Section 2023(d) is amended by striking “September 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

**SEC. 304. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.**

Section 2041(c) is amended by striking “September 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

**SEC. 305. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.**

Subparagraph (E) of section 2044(e)(1) is amended to read as follows:

“(E) \$320,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017.”

**SEC. 306. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.**

Section 2061(d)(1) is amended by striking “2016” and inserting “2017”.

**SEC. 307. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.**

Section 2066(d) is amended by striking “December 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

**SEC. 308. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.**

(a) GENERAL TREATMENT.—Section 2031(b) is amended by striking “September 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

(b) ADDITIONAL SERVICES AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS.—Section 2033(d) is amended by striking “September 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

**TITLE IV—OTHER EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AUTHORITY AND OTHER MATTERS**

**SEC. 401. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TRANSPORTATION OF INDIVIDUALS TO AND FROM DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.**

Section 111A(a)(2) is amended by striking “December 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

**SEC. 402. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR OPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGIONAL OFFICE IN MANILA, THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.**

Section 315(b) is amended by striking “September 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

**SEC. 403. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR MONTHLY ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCES UNDER THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL VETERANS SPORTS PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS.**

Section 322(d)(4) is amended by striking “2016” and inserting “2017”.

**SEC. 404. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE REPORTS TO CONGRESS REGARDING EQUITABLE RELIEF IN THE CASE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR.**

Section 503(c) is amended by striking “December 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

**SEC. 405. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

Section 521A is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “2016” and inserting “2017”; and

(2) in subsection (1), by striking “2016” and inserting “2017”.

**SEC. 406. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY VETERANS.**

Section 544(e) is amended by striking “December 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

**SEC. 407. MODIFICATION TO AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.**

Section 2013(7) is amended by striking “\$250,000,000” and inserting “\$257,700,000”.

**SEC. 408. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES CAUSING DIFFICULTY AMBULATING.**

Section 2101(a)(4) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2017”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “2016” and inserting “2017”.

**SEC. 409. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM.**

Section 2108(g) is amended by striking “September 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2017”.

**SEC. 410. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO GUARANTEE PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON CERTIFICATES OR OTHER SECURITIES.**

Section 3720(h)(2) is amended by striking “December 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

**SEC. 411. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REGARDING ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN DISEASES AND EXPOSURE TO DIOXIN AND OTHER CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS IN HERBICIDES.**

Section 3(i) of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-4; 38 U.S.C. 1116 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

**SEC. 412. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PERFORMANCE OF MEDICAL DISABILITIES EXAMINATIONS BY CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.**

Subsection (c) of section 704 of the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 (38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2017”.

**SEC. 413. RESTORATION OF PRIOR REPORTING FEE MULTIPLIERS.**

Section 406 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-175; 38 U.S.C. 3684 note) is amended by striking “two-year” and inserting “three-year”.

**SEC. 414. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS INTERAGENCY PROGRAM OFFICE.**

Section 1635(h)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended by striking “2016” and inserting “2017”.

**SEC. 415. EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY TO APPROVE COURSES OF EDUCATION IN CASES OF WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION OF ACCREDITING AGENCY BY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.**

Section 3679(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “Any course” and inserting “(1) Except as provided by paragraph (2), any course”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) In the case of a course of education that would be subject to disapproval under paragraph (1) solely for the reason that the Secretary of Education withdraws the recognition of the accrediting agency that accredited the course, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, and notwithstanding the withdrawal, may continue to treat the course as an approved course of education under this chapter for a period not to exceed 18 months from the date of the withdrawal of recognition of the accrediting agency, unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the appropriate State approving agency determines that there is evidence to support the disapproval of the course under this chapter. The Secretary shall provide to any veteran enrolled in such a course of education notice of the status of the course of education.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material on H.R. 5985, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5985, as amended, would extend a number of expiring authorities and critical programs at both the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor. These include extensions for veterans' health care and homeless programs, benefits for disabled veterans and their caregivers, vocational rehabilitative programs for servicemembers and veterans, home loan programs, and a variety of advisory committees and pilot programs.

Absent passage of this legislation today, these important and non-controversial authorizations and programs are set to expire at the end of this fiscal or this calendar year. These are not new programs, and the costs associated with them have either been fully offset or have been assumed in the baseline budget for fiscal year 2017.

Furthermore, both the majority and minority of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs have worked on this language and agree on the need to extend all of these programs.

H.R. 5985, as amended, includes an extension of authority which would allow VA to continue to approve schools for GI Bill benefits for up to 18 months, even if the school's accreditor loses formal recognition by the Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker, this change is necessary to provide student veterans with the same protections that students using title IV funds would have, and it would ensure that our Nation's veterans don't immediately have their GI Bill benefits, including their housing allowances, halted by a DOE decision to no longer recognize an accrediting body.

This provision is a must-pass, as there is possibly an imminent decision by the Department of Education to do just that and to withdraw the approval of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools.

While I am not going to comment today on the Secretary of Education's decision, we have been told it could come as early as this month, and it is this body's duty to protect an estimated 18,000 veterans from losing their benefits instantaneously through absolutely no fault of their own.

The language in this bill would mirror language that is already included in the law governing nonveteran student aid and is supported by numerous veterans service organizations and other stakeholders, including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Student Veterans of America, and the National Association of State Approving Agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 5985, as amended. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 5985, a bill to extend certain expiring provisions related to care at the Department of Veterans Affairs. This bill makes sure that some of the vital programs we have in place to take care of our veterans continue past the end of the fiscal year and continue to help our veterans. Included in this bill are provisions related to health care, benefits, homeless veterans, and other related issues.

I am pleased to support extending programs related to support services for caregivers, child care for certain veterans receiving health care, and a pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from the service.

It also has provisions to extend the authority related to rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the armed services with severe injuries or illnesses, homeless veterans' reintegration programs, homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with chil-

dren and providing housing assistance for homeless veterans.

The final section of the bill deals with the GI Bill and when an institution of higher education loses its accreditation. This section aligns GI Bill benefits in law with all other higher education benefits, such as Pell and Federal student loans.

Now, this provision is crucial because soon the Department of Education may withdraw recognition of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools. I support this move by the Department of Education. It is a long time coming.

But without section 415, when this happens, GI Bill benefits will be cut off for student veterans in schools accredited by this agency. It puts the 37,000 student veterans and dependents receiving GI Bill benefits in schools accredited by this agency on the same footing as all other students receiving Federal higher education benefits. It allows them the time they need to recoup.

Section 415 is strongly supported by veterans service organizations such as Student Veterans of America and is the result of bipartisan agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from the Fifth District of Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), a very active member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for the great work. We are going to miss his leadership next year when he goes into other pursuits. He will be sorely missed, and veterans will miss him.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of a missed opportunity in H.R. 5985. At present, the VA is pushing a rule that permits certified registered nurse anesthetists to practice without the supervision of a physician. This is a huge mistake. This bill should extend a 1-year period where the VA cannot implement this rule.

Opponents to this provision cited conditions present in forward-deployed locations as justification for implementing a change of this magnitude. Be that as it may, just because certain practices are permitted in forward-deployed locations due to military necessity does not mean that those risky practices should be forced upon our veterans at all other times and places.

Our veterans deserve the absolute best care possible. They should not be used as test subjects when the VA tries to change how it delivers services. It is not right for the VA to give our veterans unsafe and risky health care.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I simply want to urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 5985, as amended. I want to thank, sincerely, the work that we have done together with Chairman MILLER on this legislation. I am so pleased that we are passing this in the manner we are.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 5985, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5985, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### VA ACCOUNTABILITY FIRST AND APPEALS MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2016

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 5620.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOUSTANY). Pursuant to House Resolution 859 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. 5620.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

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##### 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. 5620) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, and for other purposes, with Mr. HULTGREN 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 Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, my bill, the VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act of 2016, would do two very important things for our Nation's veterans. First, it would provide the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs with more tools needed to enforce accountability at VA. Second, it would help modernize VA's current