

We owe it to our veterans to spare no effort in providing the security and assistance they need to transition to civilian life. One way to help our veterans experiencing homelessness is to help them gain new employment skills and get stable jobs.

The Department of Labor's homeless veterans reintegration program focuses on securing employment opportunities for homeless veterans. The program provides grants to State and local agencies and nonprofit organizations that teach veterans occupational skills, provide on-the-job training, help them attain apprenticeships, and help with job searches and placement.

Grantees also collaborate with public and private partners at all levels—Federal, State, and local—to provide supportive services and access to housing.

The program has been extremely successful, helping place thousands of homeless veterans in competitive employment every year.

Over the last several years, the Department of Labor has identified certain homeless veteran populations that are in particular need of reintegration services, including female veterans and veterans with families. My bill would direct the Department of Labor to prioritize homeless veterans with dependent children participating in its reintegration program.

This subpopulation of homeless veterans is particularly vulnerable, and it is so important to ensure they have access to the wraparound services necessary to support a parent with children.

Research shows that families experiencing homelessness often have to contend with intimate partner violence, child separation, and other extremely challenging issues. That is why my bill would also require the Department of Labor to study access to shelter, safety, and other relevant services for homeless veterans with dependent children. This information will help us understand the problem and identify opportunities to resolve issues in providing services to this vulnerable population.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 2 minutes.

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will also go a long way toward supporting veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country and are now struggling to adjust to civilian life and to support families.

This bill has received broad bipartisan support in the past, and I ask that my colleagues, as my colleagues have on the committee, join me in getting it across the finish line. We owe our veterans nothing less.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 240 as we did unanimously in com-

mittee. I suspect that if this bill were brought to a vote before the entire body, it would pass with near-unanimous support.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 240.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

WEST LOS ANGELES VA CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 711) to amend the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 to authorize the use of certain funds received pursuant to leases entered into under such Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 711

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 “West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF LAND USE REVENUES UNDER WEST LOS ANGELES LEASING ACT OF 2016.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 2 of the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–226; 130 Stat. 927) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) LAND USE REVENUES AT THE CAMPUS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any land use revenues received by the Secretary shall be credited to the applicable Department medical facilities accounts or minor construction accounts and shall be available, without fiscal year limitation and without further appropriation, exclusively for any of the following:

“(A) Supporting construction, maintenance, and services at the Campus relating to temporary or permanent supportive housing for homeless or at-risk veterans and their families.

“(B) Renovating and maintaining the land and facilities at the Campus.

“(C) Carrying out minor construction projects at the Campus.

“(D) Carrying out community operations at the Campus that support the development of emergency shelter or supportive housing for homeless or at-risk veterans and their families.

“(2) LAND USE REVENUE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘land use revenue’ means—

“(A) any funds received by the Secretary under a lease described in subsection (b); and

“(B) any funds received as proceeds from any assets seized or forfeited, and any restitution paid, in connection with any third-party land use at the Campus.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to funds received by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs after the date of the enactment of the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–226; 130 Stat. 927).

SEC. 3. MODIFICATION TO ENHANCED USE LEASES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WEST LOS ANGELES CAMPUS.

Paragraph (1) of section 2(b) of the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–226; 130 Stat. 927), is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Notwithstanding section 8162(b)(2) of such title, the term of such an enhanced-use lease at the Campus may not exceed 99 years.”.

SEC. 4. DETERMINATION 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.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 711, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill, the West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act, would amend a 2016 law concerning the West Los Angeles VA campus.

H.R. 711, as amended, is sponsored by Congressman TED LIEU, and is critical to the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts, together with community partners, to address veteran homelessness in the Los Angeles area.

In addition, this legislation helps VA use already available funding streams to fund supportive housing for homeless and at-risk veterans and their families; community operations that support emergency shelter and supportive housing; and renovations and minor construction projects.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 711, as amended, the West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act.

In 2016, Congress gave the West Los Angeles VA campus the authority to carry out leases with third parties. These leases have the potential to create revenue for the VA. However, the funds generated by these leases could only be used for renovation and maintenance. This bill would change that.

It would require that any land use revenues received by the VA from a third party be credited to the medical facility's account. The funding in these accounts would be used to meet existing needs and new services for homeless veterans.

Revenues would now be available for the medical center to provide emergency shelter and supportive housing services for homeless or at-risk veterans and their families. These funds would be available without fiscal year limitations and further appropriations.

It makes sense that the medical center receives these funds and can use them to improve its campus and help homeless veterans.

I thank Congresswoman BROWNLEY for her amendment at the markup which eliminated the mandatory score for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 711, as amended. I thank the gentleman and his staff for the hard work they have done on this bill to get it right. I appreciate it very much.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I also want to express my gratitude to my colleague, Ranking Member BOST, and the Republicans on the committee for working with the majority. I believe that the issues that we worked out were common sense, and upon further examination, I think taxpayers and most independent, reasonable observers would say this is what Congress should be doing on behalf of our veterans. I can't imagine why there would be any objection to this on the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 711, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill H.R. 711, the West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021. This legislation is critical to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) efforts, together with community partners, to address veteran homelessness in the Los Angeles area. In addition, it helps VA use already available funding streams for certain homeless veteran programs, thus reducing the need for taxpayer funds.

I represent the West LA VA, a 388-acre campus that serves thousands of veterans in Southern California and across the state, including offering temporary housing for homeless veterans, legal aide, training, and other services. The land was deeded to the federal government in 1888 and for decades thousands of veterans lived there. Unfortunately, following damage from a major earthquake in 1971, the VA began transitioning the land away from housing, costing Los Angeles County a crucial node in the battle to fight veteran homelessness. On top of that, fraud and general neglect of the campus before my tenure led to some of the campus falling into a state of disrepair. Finally, the VA settled in a suit alleging that many enhanced use leases on campus were not principally benefiting veterans, but instead serving other purposes.

Mr. Speaker, a year after I took office, Congress passed my West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016, a law intended to clean up the campus and which directly led to the end of most non-veteran related leases. The law has also helped spur the redevelopment of the property into a true home for veterans. The VA is now implementing a plan to build at least 1,200 new subsidized apartments, which is composed of 23 projects that range from renovating existing structures to developing and building new units.

This progress is encouraging. But there is a serious problem that was brought to my attention recently by veteran advocates. A drafting error in the 2016 legislation prevents the West LA VA from using funds from enhanced use leases (EULs) for the purposes of housing construction. The VA can only use such funds for "renovation and maintenance" of the campus which means money is lying stagnant that could be used to build housing but instead, because of a technical error, cannot go toward helping the VA fight homelessness. This legislation fixes that error.

Second, as a result of fraud on campus, the VA was supposed to get several million dollars in asset forfeiture funds. But instead, such funds go back to the general fund at the Treasury Department to be dispersed around the country, for any purpose at all. Veterans at the West LA VA are doubly harmed—first, by the initial fraud, and second, by the theft of funds that are supposed to make them whole. My legislation fixes this problem by making it clear funds from settlement money and asset forfeiture resulting from any past or future fraud on campus go to veterans at the facility that was harmed. It's just common sense.

Finally, my bill increases the life of enhanced use leases on the campus from 75 to 99 years. Increasing the length of the leases would reduce the financing costs for new housing, further helping the VA and its partners tackle homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues on the House Veterans Affairs Committee for their support, including Chairman TAKANO, who has been a tireless champion for our nation's veterans and specifically veterans in Los Angeles. I am grateful to Members on both sides of the aisle who passed this bill out of Committee on May 4th by voice vote, bringing us one step closer to ensuring the VA has the legal authorities it needs help our veterans. Let's not let technical errors stand in the way of housing our nation's heroes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 711, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

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GI BILL NATIONAL EMERGENCY EXTENDED DEADLINE ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2167) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for extensions of the time limitations for use of entitlement under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs by reason of school closures due to emergency and other situations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2167

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 "GI Bill National Emergency Extended Deadline Act".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TIME LIMITATION FOR USE OF ENTITLEMENT UNDER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BY REASON OF SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO EMERGENCY AND OTHER SITUATIONS.

(a) MONTGOMERY GI BILL.—Section 3031 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting "and subsection (i)" after "through (g)"; and

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

"(i)(1) In the case of an individual eligible for educational assistance under this chapter who is prevented from pursuing the individual's chosen program of education before the expiration of the 10-year period for the use of entitlement under this chapter otherwise applicable under this section because of a covered reason, as determined by the Secretary, such 10-year period—

"(A) shall not run during the period the individual is so prevented from pursuing such program; and

"(B) shall again begin running on a date determined by the Secretary that is—

"(i) not earlier than the first day after the individual is able to resume pursuit of a program of education with educational assistance under this chapter; and

"(ii) not later than 90 days after that day.

"(2) In this subsection, a covered reason is—

"(A) the temporary or permanent closure of an educational institution by reason of an emergency situation; or

"(B) another reason that prevents the individual from pursuing the individual's chosen program of education, as determined by the Secretary."

(b) POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 3321(b)(1) of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting "(A)" before "Subsections";

(2) by striking "and (d)" and inserting "(d), and (i)"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(B) Subsection (i) of section 3031 of this title shall apply with respect to the running of the 15-year period described in paragraphs (4)(A) and (5)(A) of this subsection in the same manner as such subsection (i) applies under such section 3031 with respect to the running of the 10-year period described in subsection (a) of such section."