

More than 5 million of our fellow Americans get a below-poverty-level check from Social Security after having paid in all their lives to the number one insurance program in the country, the number one anti-poverty program for the elderly, and the number one anti-poverty program for children. Help is on the way.

Social Security 2100, a sacred trust, as the President called it, is a bill that will uplift and raise people out of the depths of poverty and provide them with the sustenance they need in their daily lives, as Roosevelt intended.

#### RUSSIA'S ASSAULT ON UKRAINE

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in strong support of the people of Ukraine and against the thuggish, criminal, and careless actions of the Russian military and President Putin.

Last week's invasion of Ukraine by Russia was planned and premeditated. It was, and still is, a blatant act of war and cannot be tolerated by the international community. Putin's actions have been those of a desperate politician creating chaos in neighboring countries due to low popularity at home.

As we have seen on the news and social media, the Russian military is making no distinction between military and civilian, launching missiles blindly into Ukrainian cities and towns.

With their backs against the wall, the people of Ukraine have shown the world that they will fight to defend their friends, family, homes, and country. We must support them and the democratically-elected Ukrainian Government.

The current sanctions that the administration has levied against Russia, Putin, and his cronies are welcome, but we clearly need to go further. We must aggressively hurt the Russian economy by cutting off their energy exports and halt the purchasing of Russian gas and oil by the United States. We should also unleash American energy, including biofuels, natural gas, and wind, to help our allies move away from Russian energy reliance.

Mr. Speaker, to the people of Ukraine, we are with you today, tomorrow, and always.

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#### INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. CARTWRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, as we heard last night in the President's State of the Union, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is a once-in-a-

lifetime investment in our Nation's economic foundation and our Nation's competitiveness.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act makes it possible for us to invest in passenger rail expansion and restoration; rebuild our roads, our bridges, our water systems, and our sewer systems; reclaim abandoned mine lands and reduce pollution; and so much more. It is the solution to improving our competitiveness on the world stage and recovering from the devastating COVID-19 pandemic.

After years of talking about passing an infrastructure bill and week after week of infrastructure weeks, we have finally done it. We will begin seeing the benefits quite soon.

Thank God for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

#### HONORING HUNTINGTON BEACH POLICE OFFICER NICHOLAS VELLA

(Mrs. STEEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Huntington Beach Police Officer Nicholas Vella who was tragically killed in a crash while responding to a call in Newport Beach on February 19.

Officer Vella served as a law enforcement officer for 18 years and spent 14 years with the Huntington Beach Police Department. He dedicated his life to protecting our community. My heart goes out to his wife and daughter, the Huntington Beach Police Department, and all who loved and knew Officer Vella.

I am so thankful every day for our brave law enforcement officers. They put their lives on the line for us, and I am so grateful for their service and sacrifice. I want to thank their families, too, because their sacrifice does not go unnoticed.

I will be praying for Officer Vella and his family.

#### SUPPLY CHAINS

(Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bipartisan supply chain subtitle found in the House-passed America COMPETES Act.

We have all heard from our constituents over the last several months about the impact that inflation has had on households and businesses. We also know that a key reason for rising prices on critical goods is our supply chain instability. The supply chain subtitle in the America COMPETES Act will strengthen our supply chains and ultimately tackle a root cause of inflation.

It is vital that this subtitle is preserved through the negotiations of the America COMPETES Act as we build a

better America. This is about creating good-paying union jobs, protecting our national security, and, ultimately, protecting the pocketbooks of the American people. Let's get it done.

#### ACKNOWLEDGING PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ERIC BARRON

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the distinguished career of Penn State University President Eric Barron.

President Barron assumed office in 2014 after leaving his post as president at the Florida State University. But his service to the university began when Dr. Barron served as dean of the College of Earth and Minerals Sciences and founding director of the Earth System Science Center in Penn State.

In his tenure as president of Penn State University, President Barron elevated Penn State as a leader in higher education. President Barron has also worked to support State funding, increase access and affordability to students through scholarship programs, and prepare students graduating from Penn State for success after college.

In my time working with President Barron, he has always made it a point to meet with the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation regularly and share Penn State's vision, work, and culture. He took the time to build meaningful relationships which ultimately benefited the university and the Commonwealth as a whole. I am happy to call him my friend and wish him well in his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, Penn State remains one of the top institutions in the country in part because of the work of President Barron. He leaves a great legacy behind.

I thank President Barron for his service, and I wish him joy in his retirement.

#### WOMEN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

(Mr. RYAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I am frustrated. We have heard a lot this week about cutting workers in on the deal and how we meet the challenges that this Nation is facing.

Every piece of the game plan—whether it is helping take on China; how do we bring jobs back to places like Ohio; how do we increase union membership by making it easier to join a union; how do we bring down costs; and how do we cut taxes for workers in the midst of all of this inflation—every one of those bills has gone to the Senate and either died or is on life support.

Here is one example of just how broken this is: Last year, we made history

when we passed the Women's Health Protection Act—and not a moment too soon as Roe v. Wade hangs in the balance and States like Ohio race to pass new laws to ban abortion. This is a basic right, a matter of settled law. But this week the Senate blocked the vote—blocked it—and we didn't even get a vote.

It is time to get rid of the filibuster and make sure that the bills we send here from the House actually get passed in the United States Senate.

**CARING FOR OUR VETERANS**

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3967, the Honoring our PACT Act, which will ensure comprehensive benefits and care for our troops who suffer from toxic exposure, especially from burn pits. I want to thank Chairman TAKANO for his leadership on this bill. It is something we should all support. It supports our veterans.

As the daughter of a veteran, the sister of a veteran, and the wife of a veteran, caring for our veterans is extremely important to me, as it should be to every American. I could not help but be struck by the similarities between this bill and the 9/11 health and compensation bill which served and supported our heroes and heroines of 9/11 who likewise were exposed to burning toxins that later gave them cancers and severe illness.

This bill could help over 3 million veterans who are currently suffering from exposure to toxic burn pits.

Whether a veteran has served in Afghanistan, Iraq, or elsewhere, if they were exposed to these toxic hazards, they are entitled to care. They were there for us; we should be there for them. We should all support this important bill.

**REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2748**

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, I seek recognition to remove myself as cosponsor of H.R. 2748.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YARMUTH). The gentleman's request is approved.

**HONORING OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS ACT OF 2021**

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 950, I call up the bill (H.R. 3967) to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 950, an amend-

ment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-33, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 117-253, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 3967

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the “Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2021” or the “Honoring our PACT Act of 2021”.

(b) *MATTERS RELATING TO AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.*—

(1) *REFERENCES.*—Except as otherwise expressly provided, when 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.

(2) *AMENDMENTS TO TABLES OF CONTENTS.*—Except as otherwise expressly provided, when an amendment made by this Act to title 38, United States Code, adds a section or larger organizational unit to that title or amends the designation or heading of a section or larger organizational unit in that title, that amendment also shall have the effect of amending any table of sections in that title to alter the table to conform to the changes made by the amendment.

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

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

**TITLE I—EXPANSION OF HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY**

*Subtitle A—Toxic-exposed Veterans*

- Sec. 101. Short title.
- Sec. 102. Definitions relating to toxic-exposed veterans.
- Sec. 103. Expansion of health care for specific categories of toxic-exposed veterans and veterans supporting certain overseas contingency operations.
- Sec. 104. Assessments of implementation and operation.

*Subtitle B—Certain Veterans of Combat Service*

- Sec. 111. Expansion of period of eligibility for health care for certain veterans of combat service.

**TITLE II—TOXIC EXPOSURE PRESUMPTION PROCESS**

- Sec. 201. Short title.
- Sec. 202. Improvements to ability of Department of Veterans Affairs to establish presumptions of service connection based on toxic exposure.
- Sec. 203. Reevaluation of claims for compensation involving presumptions of service connection.

**TITLE III—IMPROVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE CONNECTION PROCESS FOR TOXIC-EXPOSED VETERANS**

- Sec. 301. Short title.
- Sec. 302. Presumptions of toxic exposure.
- Sec. 303. Medical nexus examinations for toxic exposure risk activities.

**TITLE IV—PRESUMPTIONS OF SERVICE CONNECTION**

- Sec. 401. Treatment of veterans who participated in cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation-exposed veterans for purposes of presumption of service connection of certain disabilities by Department of Veterans Affairs.

- Sec. 402. Treatment of veterans who participated in nuclear response near Palomares, Spain, or Thule, Greenland, as radiation-exposed veterans for purposes of presumption of service connection of certain disabilities by Department of Veterans Affairs.

- Sec. 403. Presumptions of service connection for diseases associated with exposures to certain herbicide agents for veterans who served in certain locations.

- Sec. 404. Addition of additional diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents for which there is a presumption of service connection for veterans who served in certain locations.

- Sec. 405. Improving compensation for disabilities occurring in Persian Gulf War veterans.

- Sec. 406. Presumption of service connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to burn pits and other toxins.

**TITLE V—RESEARCH MATTERS**

- Sec. 501. Coordination by Department of Veterans Affairs of toxic exposure research.
- Sec. 502. Data collection, analysis, and report on treatment of veterans for illnesses related to toxic exposure.
- Sec. 503. Studies related to veterans who served in Southwest Asia and certain other locations.
- Sec. 504. Study on health trends of post 9/11 veterans.
- Sec. 505. Study on cancer rates among veterans.
- Sec. 506. Study on feasibility and advisability of furnishing hospital care and medical services to dependents of veterans who participated in toxic exposure risk activities.

**TITLE VI—IMPROVEMENT OF RESOURCES AND TRAINING REGARDING TOXIC-EXPOSED VETERANS**

- Sec. 601. Short title; definitions.
- Sec. 602. Publication of list of resources of Department of Veterans Affairs for toxic-exposed veterans and outreach program for such veterans and caregivers and survivors of such veterans.
- Sec. 603. Incorporation of toxic exposure questionnaire during primary care appointments.
- Sec. 604. Training for personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to toxic-exposed veterans.

**TITLE VII—REGISTRIES, RECORDS, AND OTHER MATTERS**

- Sec. 701. Registry of individuals exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances on military installations.
- Sec. 702. Fort McClellan Health Registry.
- Sec. 703. Independent study on Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record.
- Sec. 704. Biannual report on Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record.
- Sec. 705. Correction of exposure records by members of the Armed Forces and veterans.
- Sec. 706. Federal cause of action relating to water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.
- Sec. 7\_\_\_\_. Veterans toxic exposures fund.

**TITLE I—EXPANSION OF HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY**

*Subtitle A—Toxic-exposed Veterans*

**SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Conceding Our Veterans’ Exposures Now And Necessitating Training Act” or the “COVENANT Act”.