

the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7939, 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. ROY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2022

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7846) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2022, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7846

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 “Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) **RATE ADJUSTMENT.**—Effective on December 1, 2022, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2022, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) **AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.**—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) **WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.**—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) **ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.**—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) **CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.**—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) **DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.**—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) **DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.**—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) **DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.**—Each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2022, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(d) **SPECIAL RULE.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section

10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2023.

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. 7846.

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, I rise in support of H.R. 7846, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022.

This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase the amounts payable for wartime disability compensation, compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children.

Specifically, VA would be required to increase benefit amounts by the same percentage as the cost-of-living increase in benefits for Social Security recipients.

To me, the cost-of-living adjustment to veterans’ compensation is more than just a rate adjustment tied to inflation. It is a quality-of-life guarantee for veterans and their families.

This annual COLA is not only a source of personal comfort for former servicemembers as they age; it assures that their survivors will not see a decline in earned benefits should the economy fluctuate and costs rise once their beloved veteran is no longer with us. I know this because veterans and their family members from all over the country relay these same exact sentiments to me.

The COLA is the continued recognition by a grateful nation of the service and sacrifice of those who have stepped up to serve. This gesture of appreciation is one of the most rewarding responsibilities of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. As chairman, I am honored to be leading this effort to express our thanks.

I would like to recognize the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs for, once again, originating this legislation for floor

consideration today, and I thank Chair LURIA and Ranking Member NEHLS for their sponsorship and steadfast assistance to our vets.

I am pleased we are voting on this bill early to alleviate any doubt that this adjustment will be in place come December.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support H.R. 7846, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, 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. 7846, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022. I thank Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Chair LURIA and Ranking Member NEHLS for introducing this bill.

It would increase the rate of disability compensation and DIC compensation for survivors to keep up with the steep rise in the cost of living. This legislation is absolutely vital in the face of rampant inflation, a potential recession, and a high cost of living under the Biden administration.

We must ensure that our veterans are able to pay their bills and put food on the table for their families. If we do not act, our veterans and their families will bear the burden of the careless financial actions of this administration.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to offer my support today, and I hope my colleagues will do the same.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA). My good friend is the chair of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee.

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7846, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022.

With inflation and rising costs impacting Americans across the country, we must continue to ensure that the needs of our disabled veterans and their families are being met.

For the past 4 years, I have been proud to introduce and pass bipartisan cost-of-living adjustments to increase compensation and benefits for our disabled veterans. As chair of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee and author of this bipartisan legislation, I am, once again, honored to present this year’s annual veterans’ cost-of-living adjustment legislation to the floor.

The Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022 would, once again, recognize that VA-related compensation requires adjustment in the same way that Social Security benefits are updated to meet the cost-of-living realities. This includes disability compensation, clothing allowance, and dependency and indemnity compensation payments.

Our veterans service organizations understand the realities that many of

our veterans and military families face to make ends meet and the importance of this cost-of-living adjustment. As the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, puts it: "This would provide a guarantee to veterans and survivors that their payments will always be aligned to counteract inflation."

In our current economic climate, veterans in my district and across the country have many of the same economic concerns as every one of us. Veterans are not immune from concerns about putting food on the table and their ability to adequately provide for a comfortable and sustainable life for themselves and their families.

As a veteran myself, I understand firsthand the concerns faced by our Active Duty servicemembers and our veterans as they balance professional responsibilities with the necessities of home life. Every bit helps, and this is especially true for those who have lost a loved one in the course of their service or as a result of a service-connected injury or illness.

Dependency and indemnity compensation provided at a sustainable rate ensures economic fluctuations are not an additional burden for a survivor already managing difficult days without their veteran by their side.

With the high costs of disability care, childcare, and other costs, it is vital that we continue to provide benefits that meet the financial demands faced by veterans and their families on a day-to-day basis.

This cost-of-living increase provided by my legislation would bolster beneficiaries against today's price fluctuations and provides relief to our disabled veterans and many military families.

The COLA Act of 2022 is recognition of the need to ensure that those receiving VA compensation are always supported. This is responsible, common-sense, bipartisan legislation and proof of the good that can come from both parties working together. Our veterans and their families deserve no less.

I thank Ranking Member NEHLs for being a cosponsor of this year's legislation and also full committee Ranking Member BOST, who worked with me for 2 years on this legislation and in previous years, as well. I thank Chairman TAKANO for his reliable support and leadership for our veterans, their families, and adequate disability compensation.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage full support of H.R. 7846.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. CAWTHORN).

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise and add my voice to support H.R. 7846. I thank Ranking Member BOST, Chairman TAKANO, and especially Ranking Member NEHLs on this subcommittee for his great work on it.

I would also like to add my voice in support of H.R. 7939. I am honored to speak today in support of our military servicemembers and their families.

America's warriors are always on the move, and their spouses often change

duty stations every 2 to 3 years in order to keep their families together and remain close in supporting their servicemembers.

Requiring the spouses of servicemembers to operate under entirely arbitrary tax standards prioritizes bureaucracy over bravery and undermines the support we provide our servicemen and -women. That is why I am deeply grateful for the support of many of my colleagues who joined me in introducing the important language of the Military Spouse Tax Act into H.R. 7939, the Student Veteran Emergency Relief Act, ensuring that military spouses will be able to keep their home domicile for State income tax purposes if they so choose.

This policy change provides much-needed financial stability to the families of those risking their lives in defense of our lives and liberties.

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. 7846, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAYNE). 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. 7846.

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 yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE VA HOME LOAN BENEFIT ACT OF 2022

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7735) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update the appraisal requirements for certain loans guaranteed by the Department 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. 7735

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 "Improving Access to the VA Home Loan Benefit Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING APPRAISAL DELIVERY TIMES.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives recommendations for improving the delivery times for appraisals for

loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 3. UPDATE OF APPRAISAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN LOANS GUARANTEED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) UPDATED REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe updated regulations or program requirements to clarify when an appraisal is required, how an appraisal is to be conducted, and who is eligible to conduct an appraisal for a loan guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs under chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, for any purpose described in section 3710(a) of such title. In prescribing updated regulations or program requirements under this section, the Secretary shall take into consideration the recommendations of the Secretary submitted under section 2.

(b) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTIES.—In prescribing updated regulations or program requirements under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider making changes applicable to—

- (1) certification requirements for appraisers;
- (2) minimum property requirements;
- (3) the process for selecting and reviewing comparable sales;
- (4) quality control processes;
- (5) the Assisted Appraisal Processing Program; and
- (6) the use of waivers or other alternatives to existing appraisal processes.

(c) DESK TOP APPRAISALS.—In prescribing updated regulations or program guidance under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide guidance for the use of the authority under section 3731(b)(3) of title 38, United States Code, taking into consideration—

- (1) situations in which the use of such authority would provide for cost savings for the borrower; and
- (2) situations in which a traditional appraisal requirement could cause a delay substantial enough to jeopardize the ability of a borrower to complete a transaction.

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 insert extraneous material on H.R. 7735, 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, I rise in support of H.R. 7735, as amended, the Improving Access