

available to identify and locate victims, especially since law enforcement, prosecutors, the tech industry, and other organization must continually contend with the emergence of new technologies, like AI, which further complicates their efforts.

Under the process for reporting child sexual abuse material today, electronic service providers, or companies that offer a platform through which users can communicate, are required to report instances of CSAM to the CyberTipline. After a tip is reported, the company works with NCMEC to share relevant information. NCMEC reviews the incoming reports and then refers them out to the appropriate law enforcement agency, typically a regional ICAC task force.

To date, NCMEC reports that the CyberTipline has received more than 92 million reports since it began in 1998, the majority of them from electronic communication service providers.

NCMEC's Child Victim Identification Program has reviewed more than 331 million images and videos. That is more than 25 million images each year. That is grotesque. While most children reflected in the images remain unknown, more than 19,300 victims have been identified.

I commend the successes of NCMEC and other law enforcement agencies in identifying and rescuing victims, but we cannot be satisfied while so many CSAM victims remain unidentified. That is why the REPORT Act is an important first step to increasing the effectiveness of CSAM reports and better protecting victims from child sexual abuse.

The Senate passed this bill by unanimous consent, with the support of law enforcement groups, the National Center For Missing and Exploited Children, or NCMEC, and technology providers. With passage of the bill today, the next stop will be President Biden's desk.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative LEE for her extraordinary leadership to protect all of our children.

In conclusion, the REPORT Act takes an important step toward combating the proliferation of child sexual abuse material online and protecting victims from future abuse. I thank Representative LEE for her leadership in introducing the House version of this bill. I am proud to cosponsor it with her. I thank our Senate partners for sponsoring this legislation. This is about our children.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DEAN. It was a privilege to cosponsor this important legislation with her.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms.

LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 474.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS EDUCATION TRANS-PARENCY AND TRAINING ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3738) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3738

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 Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration Act".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.

(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part V of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new chapter:

"CHAPTER 80—VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION

"Sec.

"8001. Organization of Administration.

"8002. Functions of Administration.

"8003. Annual report to Congress.

"§ 8001. Organization of Administration

"(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.—There is in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration. The primary function of the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is the administration of the programs of the Department that provide assistance related to economic opportunity to veterans and their dependents and survivors.

"(b) UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION.—The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is under the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, who is directly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of the Administration.

"§ 8002. Functions of Administration

"The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is responsible for the administration of the following programs of the Department:

"(1) Vocational rehabilitation and employment programs.

"(2) Educational assistance programs.

"(3) Veterans' housing loan and related programs.

"(4) The Transition Assistance Program under section 1144 of title 10.

"(5) Any other program of the Department that the Secretary determines appropriate.

"§ 8003. Annual report to Congress

"The Secretary shall include in the annual report to the Congress required by section

529 of this title a report on the programs administered by the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. Each such report shall include the following with respect to each such program during the fiscal year covered by that report:

"(1) The number of claims received.

"(2) The number of claims decided.

"(3) The average processing time for a claim.

"(4) The number of successful outcomes (as determined by the Secretary).

"(5) The number of full-time equivalent employees.

"(6) The amounts expended for information technology."

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The tables of chapters at the beginning of title 38, United States Code, and of part V of title 38, United States Code, are each amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 79 the following new item:

"80. Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration ... 8001".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on October 1, 2025.

(c) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.—For fiscal years 2025 and 2026, the total number of full-time equivalent employees authorized for the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), may not exceed—

(1) 34,228 in fiscal year 2025; and

(2) 35,417 in fiscal year 2026.

(d) LABOR RIGHTS.—Any labor rights, inclusion in the bargaining unit, and collective bargaining agreement that affects an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs who is transferred to the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply in the same manner to such employee after such transfer.

SEC. 3. UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION.

(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 306 the following new section:

"§ 306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition

"(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—There is in the Department an Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, who is appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or activity and solely on the basis of demonstrated ability in—

"(1) information technology; and

"(2) the administration of programs within the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration or programs of similar content and scope.

"(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition is the head of, and is directly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of, the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

"(c) VACANCIES.—(1) Whenever a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition occurs or is anticipated, the Secretary shall establish a commission to recommend individuals to the President for appointment to the position.

"(2) A commission established under this subsection shall be composed of the following members appointed by the Secretary:

“(A) Three persons representing education and training, vocational rehabilitation, employment, real estate, mortgage finance and related industries, and survivor benefits activities affected by the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

“(B) Two persons representing veterans served by the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

“(C) Two persons who have experience in the management of private sector benefits programs of similar content and scope to the economic opportunity and transition programs of the Department.

“(D) The Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

“(E) The chairman of the Veterans’ Advisory Committee on Education formed under section 3692 of this title.

“(F) One person who has held the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, if the Secretary determines that it is desirable for such person to be a member of the commission.

“(3) A commission established under this subsection shall recommend at least three individuals for appointment to the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. The commission shall submit all recommendations to the Secretary. The Secretary shall forward the recommendations to the President and the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives with any comments the Secretary considers appropriate. Thereafter, the President may request the commission to recommend additional individuals for appointment.

“(4) The Assistant Secretary or Deputy Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs who performs personnel management and labor relations functions shall serve as the executive secretary of a commission established under this subsection.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 306 the following new item:

“306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 38, United States Code, is further amended—

(1) in section 306(c)(2), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (E) and redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (F), as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively;

(2) in section 317(d)(2), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.”;

(3) in section 318(d)(2), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.”;

(4) in section 516(e)(2)(C), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(5) in section 541(a)(2)(B), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(6) in section 542(a)(2)(B)(iii), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(7) in section 544(a)(2)(B)(vi), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary

for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(8) in section 709(c)(2)(A), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.”;

(9) in section 7701(a), by inserting after “assistance” the following: “, other than assistance related to Economic Opportunity and Transition.”; and

(10) in section 7703, by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 306A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and the amendments made by this section, shall take effect on October 1, 2025.

SEC. 4. TRANSFER OF SERVICES.

(a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 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 a report on the progress toward establishing the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under section 8001 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 2, and the transition of the provision of services to veterans by such Administration.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not transfer the function of providing any services to veterans to the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under section 8001 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 2, until the Secretary submits to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives certification that—

(1) the transition of the provision of services to such Administration will not negatively affect the provision of such services to veterans; and

(2) such services are ready to be transferred.

(c) DEADLINE FOR CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives the certification required by subsection (b)—

(1) no earlier than April 1, 2025; and

(2) no later than September 1, 2025.

(d) FAILURE TO CERTIFY.—If the Secretary fails to submit the certification required by subsection (b) by the date specified in subsection (c)(2), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) the reason why the certification was not made by such date; and

(2) the estimated date when the certification will be made.

SEC. 5. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.

The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “November 15, 2031” each place it appears and inserting “December 27, 2031”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3738, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3738, as amended, offered by my friend and colleague from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP).

H.R. 3738, as amended, would establish a new administration called the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

For years, the Veterans Benefits Administration has been overburdened and overwhelmed with bureaucracy and red tape. Right now, VBA simply has too many important duties to fulfill on behalf of veterans and is pulled in too many directions.

Even with the PACT Act giving record funding to reduce backlogs and increase veteran benefits, this committee still sees poor performance from this part of the VA. Dr. Wenstrup’s bill, as amended, would increase accountability and provide additional needed manpower for veterans and certain programs.

For years, we have let the VA use their own judgment on how to handle these programs. VBA is making too many decisions without notifying veterans; putting new, burdensome requirements on schools; and creating new programs that will cost billions of taxpayer dollars.

Changes are frequently made to the program with little input from Congress or stakeholders and with little recourse for schools or veterans. While the Biden administration has been especially guilty of this, it must stop, regardless of who is in the White House.

This bill on the floor today is just the beginning of our efforts to improve the delivery of benefits to veterans and their families.

I thank the VFW, SVA, DAV, and The American Legion for their support of this bill. I also thank my friend, Dr. Wenstrup, for continuing to be an advocate for this bill before he retires from Congress. I also thank my colleagues across the aisle for cosponsoring and supporting the legislation through the committee process.

The legacy of this bill will make a difference for veterans and their families. This will match the important legacy of Dr. Wenstrup’s steadfast support of veterans and servicemembers as a U.S. Army veteran.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 3738, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 3738, as amended, a bill that would establish a new administration at the Department of Veterans Affairs. We have passed similar versions of this bill in the last several Congresses, and I thank Dr. Wenstrup for his continued work on this, as well

as that of current Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Ranking Member LEVIN.

The VA administers major programs like the GI Bill, Veteran Readiness & Employment, or VR&E, and the VA Home Loan program. However, these programs must compete for attention and oversight within the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Often, there is a lack of attention from VBA on critical benefits, since a majority of the staff and resources are dedicated to the administration of disability compensation and pension claims.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3738, urge my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), my good friend and the Representative from Ohio's Second Congressional District.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 3738, the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration Act, or VEOTA Act.

As a retired member of the U.S. Army Reserve and Iraq war veteran, I know how important it is to help our warfighters succeed in their transition to civilian life.

Far too often, people think unjustly that veterans return from war defeated and with skills that aren't applicable to the civilian world. This could be no further from the truth and anything else I have ever heard. Our veterans are strong, dependable leaders and team players. Our commitment to programs that promote opportunity and success brings forth their abilities and potential.

I believe our servicemembers should have a plan from the day that they enter the military to the day they transition out and beyond.

□ 1830

We should care about their military and post-military careers. Our veterans are soldiers for life, as we say in the Army, and we need to put as much emphasis and attention on their success after service as we do during it.

Currently, the Veterans Benefits Administration is responsible for all Department of Veterans Affairs benefits provided to veterans outside of healthcare and cemetery services.

While there are many different benefits that the VBA provides, the bulk of staffing and resources have been, understandably, directed toward the administration of disability compensation and pension claims. This has resulted in a lack of attention on the administration of other VBA benefits, such as the Forever GI Bill, vocational rehabilitation, home loan benefits, and VA's portion of the Transition Assistance Program.

We can't let these benefits fall by the wayside, especially those that empower veterans and help set them on the path to success in civilian life.

By aligning transition, education, and employment programs in a fourth administration within the VA, this act will modernize the Department and ensure that these opportunity-focused programs get the high priority they deserve and the oversight they need to better serve our veterans.

I thank Representative LEVIN for leading this legislation with me now for the third time. We have many Senators supporting us, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation to help improve the way veterans receive VA services, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3738, 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. BOST. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4866; and

H.R. 4755.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

FIRE WEATHER DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4866) to direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a program to improve fire weather and fire environment forecasting, detection, and local collaboration, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 341, nays 48, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 153]

YEAS—341

Adams	Fitzpatrick	Mace
Aguilar	Fleischmann	Malliotakis
Allen	Fletcher	Maloy
Allred	Flood	Mann
Amo	Foster	Manning
Amodei	Foushee	Mast
Armstrong	Frankel, Lois	Matsui
Auchincloss	Franklin, Scott	McBath
Babin	Frost	McCaul
Bacon	Fulcher	McClain
Baird	Gallego	McClellan
Balderson	Garamendi	McClintock
Balint	Garbarino	McCollum
Barr	Garcia (IL)	McCormick
Barragán	Garcia (TX)	McGarvey
Beatty	Garcia, Mike	McGovern
Bentz	Garcia, Robert	Meeks
Bera	Gimenez	Menendez
Bergman	Golden (ME)	Meng
Beyer	Goldman (NY)	Meuser
Bice	Gonzales, Tony	Miller (OH)
Bilirakis	Gonzalez,	Miller (WV)
Bishop (GA)	Vicente	Miller-Meeks
Blunt	Gooden (TX)	Molinaro
Blumenth	Gotthelmer	Moolenaar
Bost	Graves (LA)	Moore (UT)
Bowman	Graves (MO)	Moore (WI)
Boyle (PA)	Green (TN)	Moran
Brown	Green, Al (TX)	Morale
Brownley	Griffith	Moskowitz
Buchanan	Grothman	Moulton
Bucshon	Guest	Mrvan
Burgess	Guthrie	Mullin
Bush	Harder (CA)	Murphy
Calvert	Hayes	Nadler
Cammack	Hern	Napolitano
Caraveo	Hill	Neal
Carbajal	Himes	Neguse
Cardenas	Hinson	Newhouse
Carey	Horsford	Nickel
Carl	Houchin	Norcross
Carson	Houlahan	Nunn (IA)
Carter (GA)	Hoyer	Oberholte
Carter (TX)	Hoyle (OR)	Ocasio-Cortez
Cartwright	Hudson	Omar
Case	Huffman	Owens
Casten	Huizenga	Pallone
Castor (FL)	Issa	Palmer
Castro (TX)	Ivey	Panetta
Chavez-DeRemer	Jackson (IL)	Pappas
Cherfilus-	Jackson (NC)	Pascarell
McCormick	Jacobs	Peltola
Chu	James	Pence
Ciscomani	Jayapal	Perez
Clark (MA)	Jeffries	Pettersen
Clarke (NY)	Johnson (GA)	Pfluger
Cleaver	Johnson (SD)	Phillips
Clyburn	Jordan	Pingree
Cohen	Joyce (OH)	Pocan
Connolly	Kaptur	Porter
Correa	Kean (NJ)	Pressley
Costa	Keating	Quigley
Courtney	Kelly (IL)	Ramirez
Craig	Kelly (MS)	Raskin
Crenshaw	Kelly (PA)	Reschenthaler
Crockett	Khanna	Rodgers (WA)
Crow	Kiggans (VA)	Rogers (AL)
Cuellar	Kildee	Rogers (KY)
D'Esposito	Kiley	Ross
Davids (KS)	Kilmer	Rouzer
Davis (IL)	Kim (CA)	Ruiz
Davis (NC)	Krishnamoorthi	Ruppersberger
De La Cruz	Kuster	Ryan
Dean (PA)	LaHood	Salazar
DeGette	LaLota	Salinas
DeLauro	Lamborn	Sánchez
DelBene	Landsman	Sarbanes
Deluzio	Larsen (WA)	Scalise
DeSaulnier	Larson (CT)	Scanlon
DesJarlais	Latta	Schakowsky
Dingell	LaTurner	Schiff
Doggett	Lawler	Schneider
Duarte	Lee (CA)	Scholten
Dunn (FL)	Lee (FL)	Schrier
Edwards	Lee (NV)	Schweikert
Ellzey	Lee (PA)	Scott (VA)
Emmer	Leger Fernandez	Scott, Austin
Escobar	Letlow	Scott, David
Eshoo	Levin	Sessions
Espallat	Lieu	Sherman
Estes	Lofgren	Simpson
Ezell	Loudermilk	Slotkin
Feenstra	Lucas	Smith (MO)
Ferguson	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NJ)
Finstad	Luttrell	Smith (WA)
Fischbach	Lynch	Smucker