

Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), the coauthor of this legislation who serves on the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Oversight and Accountability Committee.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and Mr. BOST for their leadership and support in trying to fix a wrong.

Mr. BOST, I think, perfectly described the intent of this bill and what the problem is, and I think Mr. TAKANO did a great job in helping us understand what pain is incurred when veterans in a fiduciary status experience fraud and cannot get reimbursed in a timely manner for their benefits.

As both gentlemen indicated, we have examples of veterans who have died before this issue is adjudicated. That is wrong. No veteran and no family of a veteran should have to go through that once the determination has been made that fraud has occurred.

More than 50 percent of the people in this fiduciary category are pensioners. As Mr. TAKANO said, this is among the most vulnerable population of veterans, so they are easy to defraud, easy to exploit and take advantage of, and the government must stand by those men and women who served in uniform, served bravely, and deserve the best treatment from their government, not negligent treatment.

Today, this bill, H.R. 4016, the Veterans Fraud Reimbursement Act, grew out of actually an encounter I had with veterans in my district who were describing this very problem. We can't solve every problem, but this one we can.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for making this a bipartisan effort. I hope that it will pass with no opposition and clear the Senate so that we can start making sure that our veterans are kept whole.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4016, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, once again, I encourage Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. 4016.

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. Madam 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.

#### STUDENT VETERAN BENEFIT RESTORATION ACT

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 1767) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that educational assistance paid under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs to an individual who pursued a program or course of education that was suspended or terminated for certain reasons shall not be charged against the entitlement of the individual, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1767

*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 "Student Veteran Benefit Restoration Act".

#### SEC. 2. TREATMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT VIOLATE CERTAIN PROHIBITIONS ON ADVERTISING, SALES, AND ENROLLMENT PRACTICES.

(a) RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT.—Section 3696 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (i) through (j) as subsections (j) through (m), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (h) the following new subsection (i):

"(i) RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT.—Upon a final determination by the Under Secretary for Benefits under subsection (g), including the results of any appeal under subsection (i), that an educational institution or the owner of an educational institution violated subsection (a), (c), or (d), the Secretary may determine that any payment of educational assistance to an individual who used, or was enticed to use, entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of this title, or chapter 1606 or 1607 of title 10, to pursue a course or program of education at such educational institution during the time period when the violation occurred, and who, by reason of such violation, was unable to continue such course or program at such educational institution or was deprived (in the determination of the Secretary) of the expected value of such used entitlement, is not—

"(1) charged against any entitlement to educational assistance of the individual; or

"(2) counted against the aggregate period for which section 3695 of this title limits the receipt of educational assistance by such individual."

(b) REPAYMENT OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (h) of such section is amended—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking "subsection (i)" and inserting "subsection (j)"; and

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

"(5)(A) In addition to any other enforcement action taken under this subsection, upon a final determination by the Under Secretary for Benefits under subsection (g) that an educational institution or the owner of an educational institution violated subsection (a) or (c), the Secretary shall require the educational institution to repay to the Secretary all amounts of educational assistance under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of this title, or chapter 1606 or 1607 of title 10, paid to the educational institution by or on behalf of an individual who pursued a course or program of education at the educational institution during the time period when the violation occurred.

"(B) As a condition of the approval of a course or program of education under this

chapter, the educational institution offering the course or program shall agree that if Under Secretary of Benefits makes a final determination under subsection (g) that the educational institution or the owner of the educational institution violated subsection (a) or (c), the educational institution shall make the repayment required under subparagraph (A).

"(C) The Under Secretary shall establish a process for making a determination regarding the amount an educational institution or an owner of an educational institution is required to repay under subparagraph (A) in the case of a violation of subsection (a) or (c). Such process shall include—

"(i) clearly defined factors to be used to determine the amount attributable to the violation, including the degree to which individuals enrolled in a program of education offered by the educational institution using entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of this title or chapter 1606 or 1607 of title 10 suffered a loss due to the violation;

"(ii) a requirement that the Under Secretary provide notice to the educational institution or the owner of the educational institution that the Under Secretary is in the process of making such a determination with respect to the educational institution or owner; and

"(iii) a procedure under which the educational institution or owner may provide such information to the Under Secretary as the educational institution or owner determines appropriate within a specified period of time outlined by the Secretary for purposes of informing such determination.

"(D) A determination made pursuant to subparagraph (C) shall be—

"(i) made by the Under Secretary and may not be delegated; and

"(ii) subject to review under section 7104(a) of this title."

(2) DISAPPROVAL.—Section 3679 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, in the case of an educational institution that the Secretary determines is required to repay to the Secretary an amount under section 3696(h)(5) of this title and does not repay such amount, the Secretary shall disapprove a course or program of education offered by the educational institution until the educational institution repays to the Secretary such amount."

(3) REINSTATEMENT.—Paragraph (2) of subsection (k) of section 3696, as redesignated by subsection (a)(1), is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (E)—

(i) by striking "that"; and

(ii) by striking "and" at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (G); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following new subparagraph (F):

"(F) the educational institution repays any amount required to be repaid under subsection (h)(5); and"

#### SEC. 3. 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 "November 29, 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. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1767, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1767, as amended, introduced by my friend and colleague Representative RAMIREZ from my home State of Illinois.

The bill on the floor today is the result of good, bipartisan work to improve the lives of veterans. I am pleased that Representative RAMIREZ was willing to work with me and make the changes that I believe were necessary to get this bill moving forward.

H.R. 1767, as amended, would restore the GI Bill benefits to student veterans who were harmed by misrepresentation or fraud of an educational institution.

The GI Bill is one of the very best benefits a veteran earns for their service. No veteran should be unable to use their benefits to receive an education because a fraudulent school stole their GI Bill. However, adequate due process to ensure a fair system for both veterans and schools is necessary.

This Congress, we have seen the Biden White House weaponize the Department of Education and use student loans for political gain. Their decision to act without listening to Congress or the courts will cost American taxpayers billions of dollars. We cannot let the VA become another Department of Education, despite there being some people who would like to see that happen.

For this reason, H.R. 1767, as amended, would provide schools with a route for due process and appeal. Let me be clear: A school found guilty of fraud would still have to repay the entitlement, even with the additional due process provisions we have included in the bill.

This proposed solution would rely on VA to make decisions about schools participating in the GI Bill program rather than leaving the decision-making process to an entirely different agency.

I thank the broader veteran community for their support of this bill, as amended. I also thank my colleague Representative RAMIREZ and the minority staff for helping us to get this bill into a good place.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 1767, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 1767, as amended, a bill that will help some veterans have their earned GI Bill benefits restored in cases of fraud.

The language before us is a narrower fix than our committee considered last

summer, so while I will be supporting this bill, I want to send a message to some student veterans who, unfortunately, won't be helped by this legislation today. We hear them. We will not stop working on a comprehensive fix for all student veterans impacted by fraudulent actors in higher education.

I thank Representative RAMIREZ for her tireless efforts on behalf of student veterans. From her first days in Congress, she has put student veterans first, and it is only right that she can lead the House in restoring benefits for our student veterans.

I thank Chairman BOST for working with us on this language to get it to a place where he can support it. I look forward to working with him and his staff on improving this bill in the Senate to ensure that no student veterans are left out.

□ 2015

It is, frankly, quite disappointing and shocking that student veterans lack the same access to relief that student loan borrowers have generally. At a minimum, our veterans deserve the same protections that traditional student loan borrowers can receive, especially when an educational institution closes, is suspended, or has terminated a program due to a determination of fraud.

This bill does not get us all the way there, but I refuse to let perfect be the enemy of the good. This bill will help student veterans.

Madam Speaker, for that reason, I urge support, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ), who is my very good friend and a coauthor of this important piece of legislation. She also serves on the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee and the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the passage of H.R. 1767, the Student Veteran Benefit Restoration Act.

When I came to Congress about 16 months ago, I made a commitment to deliver legislative victories and every possible resource that would positively impact Illinois-03. During my first term, through our work on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have made it a priority to advocate for equity for our veterans and to ensure they have access to every single benefit and resource they have rightfully earned. That work includes protecting them from bad actors seeking to exploit them for the benefits they deserve.

It is why I am so proud that this bill, H.R. 1767, the Student Veteran Benefit Restoration Act, passed through committee with bipartisan support and has come to the floor today.

I thank Congressman MIKE LEVIN for being an original cosponsor with me. Also, I thank Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman BOST, Ranking Member TAKANO, and the fantastic committee staff because we don't acknowledge the work that they do enough. I thank them for all of their support and leadership in moving this bill through committee.

I also thank Veterans Education Success and Student Veterans of America for leading the effort to protect our student veterans from bad actors seeking to exploit their benefits.

I thank the National Educational Association and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, HACU, for their support of my bill and the work they do on behalf of student veterans and all students.

I also want to take the time to express my gratitude to my staff and the rest of the committee staff for the countless hours that they have spent, majority and minority, working on this bill. I thank them for their efforts. I am grateful for Justin Vogt, who has been and continues to be instrumental to this work.

Access to quality education is one of the promises we have made to our veterans, and we have to deliver.

The educational benefits provided by the GI Bill have been instrumental in helping veterans gain economic security and access to postsecondary education. Moreover, these benefits have helped ensure that student veterans are fully supported to transition back into civilian life.

This bill starts the long-overdue process of restoring the GI Bill benefits of student veterans who were defrauded by for-profit colleges and universities. This bill will help veterans like Army veteran Christopher Brown from Des Plaines, Illinois, who was promised a quality education that would be covered by his benefits, but ITT Tech instead used all of his benefits and left him with \$95,000 of debt.

Because of this bill, thousands of veterans across the country will now have a pathway to be able to seek restoration.

I thank our ranking member, again, for his endless commitment, and I thank our chairman, as well.

I believe that today is the beginning of the journey of making sure that every single veteran in this country is able to go to school and is able to have an opportunity to seek the education that they deserve.

Madam Speaker, yes, my bill was negotiated and amended, and I look forward to working together to ensure full parity for veteran students as we continue to do this work in the coming months and in the coming Congress and certainly making sure that this bill passes the Senate.

We have come a long way in the fight to protect our student veterans and passing H.R. 1767.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support its swift passage

today, and I look forward to it becoming law.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, in closing, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 1767, as amended, the Student Veteran Benefit Restoration Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, once again, I encourage all of our Members to support this bill, as well as the other bills we have moved here tonight.

Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member and staff on both sides of the aisle for the work they have done, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. 1767, 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. Madam 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.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), under its previous order and pursuant to House Resolution 1172, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 10 a.m., as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable DONALD M. PAYNE, Jr.

Thereupon (at 8 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 10 a.m., as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable DONALD M. PAYNE, Jr.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-3944. A letter from the Program Analyst, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans [FNS-2022-0043] (RIN: 0584-AE88) received April 25, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-3945. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance (RIN: 0945-AA15) received April 25, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110

Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-3946. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Retirement Security Rule: Definition of an Investment Advice Fiduciary (RIN: 1210-AC02) received April 25, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-3947. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Amendment to Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2020-2 [Application No.: D-12057] (RIN: 1210-ZA32) received April 25, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-3948. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Amendment to Prohibited Transaction Exemption 84-24 [Application D-12060] (RIN: 1210-ZA33) received April 25, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-3949. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Amendment to Prohibited Transaction Exemptions 75-1, 77-4, 80-83, 83-1, and 86-128 [Application No.: D-12094] (RIN: 1210-ZA34) received April 25, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-3950. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for General Service Lamps [EERE-2022-BT-STD-0022] (RIN: 1904-AF43) received April 25, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3951. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's Major Direct final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Dishwashers [EERE-2019-BT-STD-0039] (RIN: 1904-AF60) received April 26, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3952. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Distribution Transformers [EERE-2019-BT-STD-0018] (RIN: 1904-AE12) received April 25, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3953. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Unaccompanied Children Program Foundational Rule (RIN: 0970-AC93) received April 19, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110

Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3954. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicaid Program: Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services [CMS-2442-F] (RIN: 0938-AU68) received April 17, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3955. A letter from the Senior Regulatory and Policy Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule and interpretations — Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities (RIN: 0945-AA17) received April 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3956. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-093 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3957. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-088 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3958. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-092 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3959. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-087 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3960. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 24-004 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3961. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 23-058, pursuant to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3962. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 23-062, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3963. A letter from the Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Lowering Miners' Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica and Improving Respiratory Protection [Docket No.: MSHA-2023-0001] (RIN: 1219-AB36) received April 18, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-3964. A letter from the Division Chief, Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Major final rule —