

Mr. Speaker, I think it is noteworthy to know that whenever we did the markup on this bill in committee, the other side did not present one amendment to protect what they are suggesting now that they should have done in amendment. Guess what? They voted 39-1 for this bill.

Those penalties that the gentleman from California was pointing out that she didn't like, that hasn't changed. That was in the bill, and they passed it. She voted for it.

This bill is about making sure American elections are decided by American voters, not foreign nationals who want to tip the scales in favor of their preferred candidate or policy.

The 2020 elections were the most expensive elections in history with election spending totaling more than \$14 billion, an amount surely to be surpassed in 2024.

The American people deserve to know that the commercials and ads that are being pumped through their TVs and phones are free from foreign influence.

Representative MALLIOTAKIS' bill will close a loophole that allows wealthy foreigners to exercise outsized influence in our U.S. elections through donations to tax-exempt organizations who then flood our airwaves through super-PAC spending, emboldened with foreign dollars—not American dollars, foreign dollars.

I urge my colleagues to stand with American voters who shouldn't have their voices silenced by billionaires from overseas. I ask and encourage this body to support this legislation.

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 Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8314, 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.

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. 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.

VSO EQUAL TAX TREATMENT ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1432) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the deductibility of charitable contributions to certain organizations for members of the Armed Forces, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1432

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 “VSO Equal Tax Treatment Act” or as the “VETT Act”.

SEC. 2. DEDUCTIBILITY OF CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

“(6) An organization described in section 501(c)(19) that is a federally chartered corporation.”.

(b) PERCENTAGE LIMITATION.—Section 170(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “or” at the end of clause (viii), by adding “or” at the end of clause (ix), and by inserting after clause (ix) the following new clause:

“(x) an organization described in section 501(c)(19) that is a federally chartered corporation.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1432, the VSO Equal Tax Treatment Act, or VETT Act, introduced by my Ways and Means colleague, Dr. BRAD WENSTRUP, and Representative JIMMY PANETTA.

In short, this legislation makes it easier for those looking to support our veterans to do so through donations to the veterans service organization of their choosing.

Right now, certain VSOs are prohibited from accepting tax-deductible donations if over 10 percent of the members in their organization are not considered “wartime veterans,” but this prohibition is outdated.

As our veteran populations age, this needlessly restrictive definition excludes veteran populations who joined the service following the Vietnam war and before the Persian Gulf war.

An estimated 2.4 million veterans living today do not meet the definition of wartime veterans, including some of the men and women who bravely served this country in Iraq and Afghanistan.

VSOs provide critical services to our Nation's veterans. They help with filing service-connected claims with the VA. They provide other types of assistance when it comes to navigating the confusing web of government programs our veterans rely on.

They also stand in support of our military families, the moms and dads, the husbands and wives, and the sons and daughters of our veterans.

Under this legislation, our tax code will no longer discriminate among our veterans service organizations. Charitable contributions to all federally chartered, tax-exempt organizations that serve current and former members of the military will be tax deductible.

The Ways and Means Committee approved this legislation unanimously. I urge all my colleagues to follow our bipartisan lead and vote “yes” on this commonsense bill to support our veterans, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1432, the VETT Act. Veterans service organizations provide vital and integral support to our servicemembers in their local communities.

This bill updates outdated rules in the tax code, and in doing so, ensures that Americans have the needed incentives to support these organizations that serve those who served our country.

By providing equal treatment to veterans that served in war and those who served in peacetime, we are ensuring that VSOs are able to grow and maintain their memberships without having to risk losing their ability to receive tax deductible charitable donations.

Mr. Speaker, if there is any group in our country, in our society that deserves all of the effort that we can put forth to make sure that they receive the fairest of treatment in terms of what they have done to serve our country, this is something I think we owe them all.

I support this legislation and reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP).

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 1432, the VSO Equal Tax Treatment Act, or the VETT Act.

The VETT Act is a commonsense, bipartisan bill, which I have been proud to lead since 2018. As a veteran myself, I know firsthand how these organizations offer vital support and a sense of community to Americans who wore our Nation's uniform and sacrificed so much for our country.

All veterans deserve our support and gratitude, regardless of the period in which they served. Yet, under the current tax code, veterans service organizations whose membership consist of less than 90 percent wartime veterans are prohibited from accepting tax-deductible donations.

This disadvantages the VSOs that serve a broad membership of both wartime and nonwartime veterans, and

forces them to choose between the significant benefit of being able to accept tax-deductible donations for serving the 2.4 million veterans who do not meet the definition of wartime veterans.

It is long past time that we fix this antiquated provision in the tax code by updating the definition of charitable contributions so that it includes congressionally chartered veterans service organizations. The VETTT Act would do exactly that, ending an unfair tax on Americans who donate to these deserving VSOs.

This legislation is supported by a host of VSOs, including AMVETS, The American Legion, Fleet Reserve Association, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Military Order of the World Wars, Non Commissioned Officers Association, U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association, and TREA: The Enlisted Association.

I thank my partner on this bill, Representative JIMMY PANETTA, who has been a tremendous advocate for veterans in Congress and who I have been proud to work with on this bill and other legislation, especially concerning veterans.

I would be remiss if I didn't share my appreciation for our former colleague, Representative RON KIND, who was the Democrat lead on this bill in previous Congresses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this bill and fix this error in the tax code for the benefit of our veteran community.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues for their work on this legislation, especially Mr. PANETTA and Dr. Wenstrup.

Again, if there is any group who could expect and should expect the greatest efforts to make sure that they are protected, it is our veterans.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, there is a reason this bill passed the Ways and Means Committee 42-0. There is no denying this is the right thing to do. I urge all my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1432, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHRONIC DISEASE FLEXIBLE COVERAGE ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass

the bill (H.R. 3800) to codify Internal Revenue Service guidance relating to treatment of certain services and items for chronic conditions as meeting the preventive care deductible safe harbor for purposes of high deductible health plans in connection with health savings accounts, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3800

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 "Chronic Disease Flexible Coverage Act".

SEC. 2. SERVICES AND ITEMS FOR CHRONIC CONDITIONS TREATED AS PREVENTIVE CARE.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The additional preventive care services and items for chronic conditions that may be treated as preventive care for purposes of section 223(c)(2)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as set forth in IRS Notice 2019-45 shall have the same force and effect as if included in the enactment of this Act.

(b) *NO INFERENCE.*—To the extent not inconsistent with this section, no inference shall be made from subsection (a) with respect to such other rules or guidance as the Secretary has provided, or may provide, with respect to preventive services for purposes of section 223(c)(2)(C) of such Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 6 in 10 Americans live with at least one chronic disease, such as heart disease, cancer, or diabetes. Nearly 90 percent of the \$4.1 trillion in annual healthcare spending in this country goes toward the treatment of patients with chronic diseases.

Part of improving the delivery of healthcare in America must be expanding the opportunity for folks to better manage their chronic health conditions so that they can live longer, healthier lives, and we can bring down the financial impact of healthcare on individuals, families, businesses, and the government.

The Chronic Disease Flexible Coverage Act, introduced by Ways and Means colleagues Dr. WENSTRUP and Representative BLUMENAUER, will expand treatment and disease management options by allowing employers that offer high-deductible healthcare plans to also offer predeductible coverage, otherwise known as first-dollar

coverage, for 14 chronic healthcare services.

Those services include beta blockers for patients with congestive heart failure, blood pressure monitors for patients with high blood pressure, inhalers for patients with asthma, and cholesterol drugs and testing for patients with heart disease. The list does not have to end there. In fact, the bill also allows for that list of covered services to be expanded in the future.

The Chronic Disease Flexible Coverage Act actually codifies a Trump administration policy that will incentivize employers to offer coverage for these services so that they can lower healthcare costs for their workers and their businesses.

High-deductible health plans are a great option for employers and employees looking for more affordable coverage, and this bill will make them even more beneficial to individuals with chronic disease.

Flexibilities like these in care delivery and coverage options are key to improving patient outcomes, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Chronic Disease Flexible Coverage Act is sponsored by Dr. WENSTRUP and Representative EARL BLUMENAUER. I thank my colleague Dr. WENSTRUP and my friend EARL BLUMENAUER for their tireless work in healthcare and on healthcare issues.

As EARL prepares to retire, I recognize that he has long been a champion for improving care and services for those with chronic illnesses. I will miss his leadership on the Ways and Means Committee and in Congress.

While I voted against the bill in committee, I do understand the principle about trying to protect people from high out-of-pocket costs. This bill codifies the safe harbor for preventive services for high-deductible plans that offer additional preventive benefits predeductible.

Given that the bill codifies the regulation, it is not making a new policy or giving Americans any protections they don't currently enjoy.

While I understand the desire to help workers stuck in high-deductible plans, we really need to look at the impact high-deductible plans are having on patients and families and how they contribute to medical debt.

More than 100 million Americans are saddled with medical debt that can often be as a result of plans with high deductibles. We know out-of-pocket costs deter Americans from getting the care that they need, and we must change that.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to