

member on the subcommittee, Representative BRETT GUTHRIE of Kentucky, for expediting this legislation and helping us make these needed corrections in a bipartisan manner.

I urge all my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 1777.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I rise in support of this legislation, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The House easily passed this bill under suspension at the end of March and, as often happens with the legislative process, when it went to the Senate, a few changes were made. Therefore, we are here again today simply to give final approval to a bill we have already supported, and rightfully so.

The primary purpose of this legislation is to make technical changes to ensure smooth implementation of the bipartisan higher education reforms enacted last year. Second, it addresses a pressing issue facing the Federal student loan programs. And third, the legislation includes a provision to assist students who have lost a parent to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The technical corrections are just that, clarifications needed to ensure that the first comprehensive renewal of higher education programs in a decade can be put into place as Congress intended. The legislation will also help student loan borrowers who have fallen behind to rebuild their damaged credit by making these loans eligible for emergency liquidity measures enacted last fall. It's a simple change that will make a real difference for borrowers who are just trying to do the right thing by restarting regular payments on their Federal student loans.

The other change we are making in this bill is also important for a different set of students, students who have suffered a terrible loss but who have continued to move forward to achieve a postsecondary education. And I'm talking about the students who have lost a parent due to the military action taking place in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Higher Education Act reauthorization bill that was passed by this body last Congress included a provision that would allow Pell-eligible students to automatically receive the maximum Pell Grant if one of their parents died as a result of their military service in Iraq or Afghanistan. The legislation before us today extends a similar benefit to students who may fall outside of the income limits placed on the Pell Grant program but who have also suffered the same type of loss.

Under this legislation, all students who have lost a soldier-parent as a direct result of fighting in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan will be eligible for a grant. The parents of these students have given their lives in service to our country.

A college student who loses a parent in the war loses so much more than we can fathom. These students will not

have their parent around to move into their first dorm room or hear complaints about cafeteria food. They will not have their parent's consolation and encouragement to continue even after a poor test grade or a difficult professor. Of course, these students who lose a parent in Iraq or Afghanistan will not have the financial support of their parent in this time of rising college costs and economic uncertainty.

While this legislation does not provide students with the same type of support a parent could provide, I hope it will ease the financial burden of paying for college just a little bit.

The legislation before us easily passed the House once. I hope for a similar result again, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting “yes” on this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1777.

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. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 2647, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to file a supplemental report on the bill, H.R. 2647.

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

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1833

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois) at 6 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order: S. 407, by the yeas and nays; H.R. 1016, de novo; H.R. 1211, by the yeas and nays; H.R. 1172, by the yeas and nays; concurring in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1777, de novo.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 407, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROSS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 407.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 403, nays 0, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 419]

YEAS—403

Abercrombie	Brown, Corrine	Davis (CA)
Ackerman	Brown-Waite,	Davis (IL)
Aderholt	Ginny	Davis (KY)
Adler (NJ)	Buchanan	Davis (TN)
Akin	Burgess	Deal (GA)
Alexander	Burton (IN)	DeFazio
Altmire	Butterfield	Delahunt
Andrews	Buyer	DeLauro
Arcuri	Calvert	Dent
Austria	Camp	Diaz-Balart, L.
Baca	Cantor	Diaz-Balart, M.
Bachmann	Cao	Dicks
Bachus	Capito	Dingell
Baird	Capps	Doggett
Baldwin	Capuano	Donnelly (IN)
Barrett (SC)	Cardoza	Doyle
Barrow	Carnahan	Dreier
Bartlett	Carney	Driehaus
Barton (TX)	Carson (IN)	Duncan
Bean	Carter	Edwards (MD)
Becerra	Cassidy	Edwards (TX)
Berkley	Castle	Ehlers
Berman	Castor (FL)	Ellison
Berry	Chaffetz	Ellsworth
Biggert	Chandler	Emerson
Bilbray	Childers	Engel
Bilirakis	Clarke	Eshoo
Bishop (GA)	Clay	Etheridge
Bishop (NY)	Cleaver	Fallin
Bishop (UT)	Clyburn	Farr
Blackburn	Coble	Fattah
Blumenauer	Coffman (CO)	Filner
Boccheri	Cohen	Flake
Boehmer	Cole	Fleming
Bonner	Conaway	Forbes
Bono Mack	Connolly (VA)	Fortenberry
Boozman	Cooper	Foster
Boren	Costello	Fox
Boswell	Courtney	Frank (MA)
Boucher	Crenshaw	Franks (AZ)
Boustany	Crowley	Frelinghuysen
Brady (PA)	Cuellar	Fudge
Bright	Culberson	Gallegly
Broun (GA)	Cummings	Garrett (NJ)
Brown (SC)	Dahlkemper	Gerlach