

This Congress is trying to put America where it should be as a place of great ideas and policies, and we have got an 8-year hole to fill. It has been difficult. But we are doing the best we can with the difficult situation we have been given.

I'm proud to work with President Obama and this Congress and put America and the ship of state afloat and going in the right direction.

□ 1245

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

PILOT COLLEGE WORK STUDY PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2009

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1037) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a five-year pilot project to test the feasibility and advisability of expanding the scope of certain qualifying work-study activities under title 38, United States Code, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill, as amended.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1037

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 "Pilot College Work Study Programs for Veterans Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. FIVE-YEAR PILOT PROGRAM FOR ON-CAMPUS WORK-STUDY POSITIONS.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.*—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a five-year pilot project to test the feasibility and advisability of expanding the scope of qualifying work-study activities for purposes of section 3485(a)(4) of title 38, United States Code, including work-study positions available on site at educational institutions.

(b) *TYPE OF WORK-STUDY POSITIONS.*—The work-study positions referred to in subsection (a) may include positions in academic departments (including positions as tutors or research, teaching, and lab assistants) and in student services (including positions in career centers and financial aid, campus orientation, cashiers, admissions, records, and registration offices).

(c) *REGULATIONS.*—The Secretary shall issue regulations to carry out the pilot project under this section, including regulations providing for the supervision of work-study positions referred to in subsection (a) by appropriate personnel of the Department.

(d) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to carry out the pilot project under this section.

(e) *SOURCE OF FUNDS.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this section shall not be carried out with any funds provided for or under any authority of the Readjustment benefits program described by the list of Appropriated Entitlements and Mandatories for Fiscal Year 1997 contained in the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 2015 of the 105th Congress, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (H. Report 105-217). No funds shall be obligated for the purpose of carrying out this section except discretionary funds appropriated specifically for the purpose of carrying out this section in appropriation Acts enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity of the Veterans' Committee, STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN of South Dakota, for introducing this bill, the Pilot College Work Study Programs for Veterans Act of 2009. It would direct the VA to conduct a 5-year pilot project to expand on existing work study activities for student veterans to participate in work study positions in academic departments and in student services.

As this committee's chairman and a former university professor, I understand the financial hurdles of paying for college and strongly support all methods to make education more affordable for our brave veterans.

This legislation provides an additional avenue for student veterans to help pay for college and places them on a par with other students in the same financial situation. Furthermore, these new work study positions would provide student veterans with much needed job skills that they can use in their professional career.

Our chairwoman, Ms. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN, will be speaking on this bill, and I urge all our colleagues to join me in reaffirming our country's commitment to our veterans by supporting this H.R. 1037.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might use.

I rise in support of H.R. 1037, as amended, introduced by the distinguished chair of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. The Pilot College Work Study Program for Veterans Act of 2009 would expand the number and types of work study positions at colleges and universities.

The types of work study jobs that can be funded through the Montgomery GI Bill are too restrictive. Expanding the types of jobs veterans may hold at schools benefits student veterans financially, but more importantly, in my view, it places them in positions where nonveteran students and faculty will see the advantages and results of military service to the Nation. Too often

our young people see only the entitlement side of life that requires no commitment to something other than themselves.

Just as the original GI Bill opened higher education to the masses of citizen soldiers after World War II, improved the experiences of all students, including nonveterans, this bill will broaden the impact on veterans throughout the Nation's higher educational system.

I am reminded of the statement by James B. Conant, president of Harvard University, shortly after the World War II generation filled the campuses. In recanting his earlier concerns, he stated, and I quote: The mature student body that filled our colleges in 1946 and 1947 was a delight to all who were teaching undergraduates. For seriousness, perceptiveness, and studiousness and all other undergraduate virtues, the former soldiers and sailors were the best in Harvard's history.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1037, as amended, will provide our veterans on campus a unique opportunity to earn while they learn, to build their resumes and to influence campus life. Too often our young citizens see a distorted image of veterans, and this bill will help replace that image with one of men and woman who are dedicated to education and to making meaningful contributions to society.

By enlarging the types of work study jobs veterans can hold on campus, we are putting them in the forefront of student life. As teaching assistants, administrative staff, student counselors, and other high-visibility jobs, non-veteran students and faculty will see them just as Harvard President Conant did over 60 years ago.

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

Mr. FILNER. I would yield as much time as she may consume to our dynamic chair of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN of South Dakota.

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, the distinguished gentleman from California, for yielding.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1037, the Pilot College Work Study Programs for Veterans Act of 2009, as amended, which the Veterans' Affairs Economic Opportunity Subcommittee passed on June 4 and the full committee approved on June 10.

I was proud to introduce this important legislation, and I would like to thank the full committee chairman, Mr. FILNER, the ranking member, Mr. BUYER, for their leadership in support of this legislation, as well as the support of Congressman GRIJALVA of Arizona, who was an original cosponsor. I have been pleased to be able to work with the distinguished ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. BOOZMAN of Arkansas, in a bipartisan way to advance this legislation to the full committee and now to the floor. I also