

REVISIONS TO THE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

[In millions of dollars]

| | Current allocation/ limit | Adjustments* | Adjusted alloca- tion/limit |
|---|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Fiscal Year 2015: | | | |
| Revised Security Category Discretionary Budget Authority | 521,272 | 0 | 521,272 |
| Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority | 492,356 | 100 | 492,456 |
| General Purpose Discretionary Outlays | 1,160,500 | 43 | 1,160,543 |
| Memorandum: Total Discretionary Budget Authority | 1,013,628 | 100 | 1,013,728 |

* Pursuant to section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations will be adjusted following the reporting of bills, offering of amendments, or submission of conference reports that qualify for adjustments to the discretionary spending limits as outlined in section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DETAIL ON ADJUSTMENTS TO FISCAL YEAR 2015 ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

ACT

[\$s in billions]

| | Program integrity | Disaster relief | Emergency | Overseas contingency operations | Total |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-------|
| Agriculture: | | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 0.000 | 0.100 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.100 |
| Outlays | 0.000 | 0.043 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.043 |
| Total: | | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 0.000 | 0.100 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.100 |
| Outlays | 0.000 | 0.043 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.043 |
| Breakdown of Above Adjustments by Category: | | | | | |
| Revised Security Category Budget Authority | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Revised Nonsecurity Category Budget Authority | 0.000 | 0.100 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.100 |
| General Purpose Discretionary Outlays | 0.000 | 0.043 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.043 |

VETERANS HEALTH CARE—H.R. 3230

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, last week the Senate passed H.R. 3230, Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act. Today, I rise to address some concerns my colleagues raised about whether veterans will be able to choose their own providers. Some may read section 301 of this bill to mean that VA is still in the driver seat. Specifically, that VA will be able to pick and choose which provider to contract with under this section and not offer veterans a true choice of where and from whom they receive their care. However, that is not our intent.

Our intent is to give veterans the choice of where and from whom they receive their care without interference from VA. Beyond that, H.R. 3230 provides that if a doctor or hospital approaches VA and states they want to help alleviate the current access problems, VA would be directed to contract with that doctor provided they participate in Medicare. Because this legislation requires VA to pay these providers at the Medicare rate, VA would be able to implement a standard contract for the care and services veterans receive and would allow VA to expeditiously implement a contract with that doctor and get veterans the care they need as soon as possible.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I wish to state for the record my strong support for S. 2450, the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014. I also wish to state for the record that, though I was unfortunately already traveling to my son's high school graduation in Oregon at the time the vote was called, I would have voted aye on this legislation had I been present.

I was among the original cosponsors of this bill because I believe strongly that the VA system must do right by our veterans. Our veterans have stood up for us, and we must stand up for them.

Recent reports highlight the urgent need both for greatly increased accountability within the VA health system and for greater resources to meet the needs of increasing numbers of veterans who are turning to the VA for health care. The current situation of extremely long wait times—and in some cases, secret waiting lists—is 100 percent unacceptable and must be fixed. Those who are responsible for these failings or any efforts to cover them up should swiftly lose their jobs. If they broke the law, then they should be prosecuted as well. Going forward, we must ensure that the VA system has the doctors and the resources it needs to give our vets the timely, top-notch care they deserve.

This bill gives the VA the power both to fire the administrators who need to be held accountable and to hire the additional doctors and nurses needed to improve the system. In addition, it contains a bipartisan provision I have worked on with Senator HELLER to expand education benefits for spouses of servicemembers who die in the line of duty. These are important improvements for our veterans and their families, and I am proud to support them.

I am very pleased to see this legislation move forward. I wish to once again state again my strong support, and I urge the House to take up and pass this bill without delay.

2014 WORLD CUP

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today the United States men's soccer team begins its quest for World Cup glory in Brazil. The 23 players selected by head coach Jürgen Klinsmann in-

clude native New Jerseyans Tim Howard, Michael Bradley, Jozy Altidore, and Alejandro Bedoya. They have dedicated themselves to being the best at their craft, and now have an opportunity to represent the United States of America at the world's premier soccer event.

The World Cup is an extraordinary tournament whose reach extends well beyond the pitch. It has the incredible ability to unify peoples in celebration and even halt civil conflict, as was seen temporarily in Côte d'Ivoire in 2006. I sincerely hope that moving into the future, the institution of the World Cup can be a symbol of increased international cooperation.

While many consider the U.S. a relatively recent addition to the global soccer community compared to our friends in Europe and South America, we actually finished third at the first ever World Cup held in Uruguay in 1930. I hope that this U.S. team will build upon our rich soccer history and represent our great Nation well in our seventh consecutive World Cup appearance. As our supporters say, "onward U.S.A.!"

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CLINTON COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.