

Delivering 21st century healthcare in buildings that were built during the latter half of the 19th century is far from ideal and certainly not what our veterans deserve.

Given the severity of underfunding as it relates to the VA's capital assets, we cannot afford to wait until the AIR Commission provides recommendations to Congress and the White House, as my colleagues across the aisle would advocate for. Life-safety and seismic issues across the portfolio must be recognized now. Regular maintenance should not be delayed because of budgetary concerns, nor should we delay retrofitting facilities to meet the VA's fastest-growing population, women veterans, or delay addressing the lessons learned from this Nation's first pandemic in more than 100 years.

If we are going to build back veterans' trust in the VA, we have to start making serious investments in the outdated infrastructure meant to serve them, and nearly three-fourths of Americans agree.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support and pass this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7500, the bill that would authorize VA major medical facility construction projects in Mississippi, New York, Texas, California, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Missouri.

It is well known that the VA healthcare system has very serious infrastructure issues. The average VA medical center is decades older than the average private-sector hospital.

Authorizing these projects won't fix that, but it will help thousands of veterans who live in those eight States to have better access to the care that they have earned and deserve.

I appreciate Congressmen Allred and Ellzey for their work introducing this important bill. It has my full support today. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 7500. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7500.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

PATIENT ADVOCATE TRACKER ACT

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5754) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of veterans to electronically submit complaints about the delivery of health care services by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5754

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 "Patient Advocate Tracker Act".

SEC. 2. SYSTEM FOR ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 7309A(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) Beginning not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Director shall establish an information technology system that will allow a veteran (or the designated representative of a veteran) to electronically—

"(A) file a complaint that will be received by the appropriate patient advocate; and

"(B) at any time view the status of the complaint, including interim and final actions that have been taken to address the complaint."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 5754.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5754, the Patient Advocate Tracker Act, sponsored by the gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. McCLAIN).

This bill will require VA to create a system to allow veterans to electronically submit complaints about the delivery of VA healthcare services and to track the resolution of those complaints by local VA patient advocates through an online system in real time. VA's existing IT system only allows VA employees to track complaint resolution, but not patients.

This bill has garnered the bipartisan support of an impressive 115 cosponsors since it was introduced 7 months ago. H.R. 5754 is also endorsed by numerous veterans service organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed

Veterans of America, and Student Veterans of America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5754, the Patient Advocate Tracker Act. This is an excellent piece of legislation that is the brainchild of a veteran named Cameron Zbikowski.

Cameron worked on VA's patient advocate program as a student veteran fellow for the VFW and Student Veterans of America. During his fellowship, he recognized that veterans would be better served if they could submit complaints to VA patient advocates online and track the status of those complaints online as well.

Cameron was spot on, and this bill will require VA to make that happen. This will make patient advocates more accessible to veterans than ever before, and it will increase the transparency and accountability of the VA patient advocacy program so that we can make sure that it is working as it should for veterans across the country.

I know Cameron is watching today, and from one veteran to another, I thank him for his great work.

This bill is sponsored by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. McCLAIN). I thank her for her hard work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud supporter of this bill today, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in supporting it. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 5754, the Patient Advocate Tracker Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5754.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

VETERANS ELIGIBLE TO TRANSFER SCHOOL (VETS) CREDIT ACT

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6604) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the method by which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines the effects of a closure or disapproval of an educational institution on individuals who do not transfer credits from such institution, as amended.