

the nation's blood supply, and provides assistance to the victims of this tragedy. With yearly medical costs of over \$150,000, and a lack of legal options, many of the affected families have been devastated financially. While this bill can not bring back loved ones, it can provide those who are still living with some degree of financial relief. In addition, it recognizes, finally, the tragedy that occurred and the impact it had on the entire hemophilia community.

I thank Katherine for bringing this issue to my attention, and am pleased that H.R. 1023 is finally on the floor of the House. I strongly urge all my colleagues to support it.

Mr. SHAW. Madam Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1023, the "Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act of 1998."

H.R. 1023, sponsored by my friend PORTER GOSS, is named for Ricky Ray, a 15 year old Florida hemophiliac who died in 1992. This bill represents the best of what government can do to help needy families struggling to overcome personal tragedy. From some, including for the bill's namesake, H.R. 1023 comes too late to provide help. But for many others it will provide welcome relief, and I am proud not only to be an original cosponsor, but also to have helped H.R. 1023 progress through the Ways and Means Committee to the House floor today.

Even though the bill was first marked up by the Judiciary Committee, an important component is the promise H.R. 1023 would keep by continuing Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits to needy individuals, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Subcommittee on Human Resources that I chair. These critical benefits will remain available despite a recent settlement and also new federal funds that otherwise would disqualify hemophiliacs who contracted the AIDS virus through tainted blood products in the 1980s from continued SSI eligibility. There is ample precedent for SSI to ignore such payments, and I can scarcely think of a more worthy class than this limited number of hemophiliacs, many of them children at the time, who have been afflicted with the AIDS virus. The Congressional Budget Office has told us the cost is minimal, especially when compared with the tragedy these individuals and their families have already experienced.

Another important feature of the bill is that it would exempt the payments from federal income taxes. Chairman BILL ARCHER summarized the issue well when the Committee on Ways and Means unanimously approved H.R. 1023 last month: "No amount of money in the world can fix this tragedy, but we want to make sure that the federal payments are treated as tax-free, as they should be, and that SSI benefits stay unchanged for these innocent victims. They've been through enough as it is."

Madam Speaker, I commend Congressman GOSS for his diligence in pressing for passage of this important bill, and urge all of our colleagues to support it.

Mr. ARCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1023, the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Act. As an original cosponsor to the legislation introduced by my friend and colleague, PORTER GOSS, I believe that H.R. 1023 takes a positive step in addressing a great wrong that was committed affecting seven thousand Americans; over half of the hemophilia community.

In 1995, the Institute of Medicine conducted an independent review which concluded that the system designed to ensure the safety of blood and blood products had been ill-prepared to deal with the dangers of blood-borne viruses and had failed to protect the public health. As a result, thousands of Americans with hemophilia became infected with HIV through the use of these contaminated blood products.

The portion of the legislation that came before the Ways and Means Committee ensures that payments to people with hemophilia who contracted HIV from tainted blood products will be tax-free and not threaten benefits under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) system. While no amount of money in the world can fix this tragedy, Congress must do all it can to make certain that the SSI benefits of these individuals living with two chronic and expensive diseases remain unchanged.

Finally, I want to commend: Congressman GOSS; Chairmen HYDE and BLILEY; the National Hemophilia Foundation (NHF); Ray Stenhope, a Houstonian who is Past-President of NHF; Dr. Keith Hoots and the folks at the Gulf States Hemophilia Treatment Center at Hermann Hospital in Houston; and everyone else who worked long and hard to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives. While I realize that these courageous individuals and their families will have to continue to live with the horrors of this tragedy, I hope that this bill will at least bring them some comfort.

Mr. SCOTT. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1023, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to provide for compassionate payments with regard to individuals with blood-clotting disorders, such as hemophilia, who contracted human immunodeficiency virus due to contaminated antihemophilic factor, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS TRANSITIONAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3039) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to guarantee loans to provide multifamily transitional housing for homeless veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3039

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 "Veterans Transitional Housing Opportunities Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. LOAN GUARANTEE FOR MULTIFAMILY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

"SUBCHAPTER VI—LOAN GUARANTEE FOR MULTIFAMILY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS"

"§ 3771. Definitions"

"For purposes of this subchapter—

"(1) the term 'veteran' has the meaning given such term by paragraph (2) of section 101;

"(2) the term 'homeless veteran' means a veteran who is a homeless individual; and

"(3) the term 'homeless individual' has the same meaning as such term has within the meaning of section 103 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302).

"§ 3772. General authority"

"(a) The Secretary may guarantee the full or partial repayment of a loan that meets the requirements of this subchapter.

"(b)(1) Not more than 15 loans may be guaranteed under subsection (a), of which not more than 5 such loans may be guaranteed during the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Veterans Transitional Housing Opportunities Act of 1998.

"(2) A guarantee of a loan under subsection (a) shall be in an amount that is not less than the amount necessary to sell the loan in a commercial market.

"(3) Not more than an aggregate amount of \$100,000,000 in loans may be guaranteed under subsection (a).

"(c) A loan may not be guaranteed under this subchapter unless, prior to closing such loan, the Secretary has approved such loan.

"(d)(1) The Secretary shall enter into contracts with a qualified nonprofit organization to obtain advice in carrying out this subchapter, including advice on the terms and conditions necessary for a loan that meets the requirements of section 3773.

"(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), a qualified nonprofit organization is a nonprofit organization—

"(A) described in paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection (c) of section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under subsection (a) of such section, and

"(B) that has experience in underwriting transitional housing projects.

"(e) The Secretary may carry out this subchapter in advance of the issuance of regulations for such purpose.

"(f) The Secretary may guarantee loans under this subchapter notwithstanding any requirement for prior appropriations for such purpose under any provision of law.

"§ 3773. Requirements"

"(a) A loan referred to in section 3772 meets the requirements of this subchapter if—

"(1) the loan is for—

"(A) construction of, rehabilitation of, or acquisition of land for a multifamily transitional housing project described in subsection (b), or more than one of such purposes;

"(B) refinancing of an existing loan for such a project;

"(C) financing acquisition of furniture, equipment, supplies, or materials for such a project; or

"(D) in the case of a loan made for purposes of subparagraph (A), supplying such organization with working capital relative to such a project;

"(2) the loan is made in connection with funding or the provision of substantial property or services for such project by either a State or local government or a nongovernmental entity, or both;

"(3) the maximum loan amount does not exceed the lesser of—

"(A) that amount generally approved (utilizing prudent underwriting principles) in the consideration and approval of projects of similar nature and risk so as to assure repayment of the loan obligation; and

"(B) 90 percent of the total cost of the project;

"(4) the loan is of sound value, taking into account the creditworthiness of the entity (and the individual members of the entity) applying for such loan;

"(5) the loan is secured; and

"(6) the loan is subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines are reasonable, taking into account other housing projects with similarities in size, location, population, and services provided.

"(b) For purposes of this subchapter, a multifamily transitional housing project referred to in subsection (a)(1) is a project that—

"(1)(A) provides transitional housing to homeless veterans, which housing may be single room occupancy (as defined in section 8(n) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(n)));

"(B) provides supportive services and counseling services (including job counselling) at the project site with the goal of making such veterans self-sufficient;

"(C) requires that the veteran seek to obtain and keep employment;

"(D) charges a reasonable fee for occupying a unit in such housing;

"(E) maintains strict guidelines regarding sobriety as a condition of occupying such unit; and

"(F) may include space for neighborhood retail services or job training programs; and

"(2) may provide transitional housing to veterans who are not homeless and to homeless individuals who are not veterans if—

"(A) at the time of taking occupancy by any such veteran or homeless individual, the transitional housing needs of homeless veterans in the project area have been met;

"(B) the housing needs of any such veteran or homeless individual can be met in a manner that is compatible with the manner in which the needs of homeless veterans are met under paragraph (1); and

"(C) the provisions of subparagraphs (D) and (E) of paragraph (1) are met.

"(c) In determining whether to guarantee a loan under this subchapter, the Secretary shall consider—

"(1) the availability of Department of Veterans Affairs medical services to residents of the multifamily transitional housing project; and

"(2) the extent to which needs of homeless veterans are met in a community, as assessed under section 107 of Public Law 102-405.

"§ 3774. Default

"(a) The Secretary shall take such steps as may be necessary to obtain repayment on any loan that is in default and that is guaranteed under this subchapter.

"(b) Upon default of a loan guaranteed under this subchapter and terminated pursuant to State law, a lender may file a claim under the guarantee for an amount not to exceed the lesser of—

"(1) the maximum guarantee; or

"(2) the difference between—

"(A) the total outstanding obligation on the loan, including principal, interest, and expenses authorized by the loan documents, through the date of the public sale (as authorized under such documents and State law); and

"(B) the amount realized at such sale.

"§ 3775. Audit

"During each of the first 3 years of operation of a multifamily transitional housing

project with respect to which a loan is guaranteed under this subchapter, there shall be an annual, independent audit of such operation. Such audit shall include a detailed statement of the operations, activities, and accomplishments of such project during the year covered by such audit. The party responsible for obtaining such audit (and paying the costs therefor) shall be determined before the Secretary issues a guarantee under this subchapter."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new items:

"SUBCHAPTER VI—LOAN GUARANTEE FOR MULTIFAMILY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

"3771. Definitions.

"3772. General authority.

"3773. Requirements.

"3774. Default.

"3775. Audit."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks, and include extraneous material on H.R. 3039, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

(Mr. STUMP asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, H.R. 3039 is the Veterans Transitional Housing Opportunity Act of 1998. It authorizes the VA to guarantee home loans for multi-unit transitional housing for homeless veterans. The bill also requires homeless projects using these loans to work with VA health care facilities as well as State and local authorities. Additionally, it requires residents to seek and obtain employment and maintain sobriety.

The bill is based on a model that stresses personal responsibility, addiction recovery and work. The project must provide supportive services, sobriety, personal and job counseling. Residents are required to pay a reasonable fee for their residence.

Many committee members have contributed to this bill from both sides of the aisle and we appreciate that very much.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 3039, the Veterans Housing Opportunities Act of 1998. This bill will furnish yet another tool to meet the housing and supportive service needs of homeless veterans.

Many of these men and women, who once served their country with honor,

can return to society as productive citizens if they are provided with an appropriate continuum of care. The program established under H.R. 3039 will provide the sanctuary, support and services necessary to achieve this goal.

I want to thank the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) for his help in the development of this legislation. I also want to commend the chairman of the Subcommittee on Benefits of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JACK QUINN), and the ranking Democrat on the committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. BOB FILNER), for their hard work on these issues. Their cooperative bipartisan efforts have resulted in a bill that is good for the veterans of this country. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3039.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Benefits of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. QUINN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

H.R. 3039 is a bill to provide a VA loan guarantee for transitional housing for homeless veterans. In testimony before our Subcommittee on Benefits here in Washington, D.C., as well as testimony at a hearing held in Buffalo, New York, in my district, witness after witness said that the major stumbling block to providing services to homeless veterans is the inability to obtain stable funding. H.R. 3039 is intended to address this obstacle, thereby increasing the supply of transitional housing for homeless veterans.

It is fairly common knowledge that veterans comprise about one-third of homeless adults in this country, and that a high percentage of the homeless suffer from substance abuse and mental illness. Four years ago the Congress called for programs serving homeless veterans to receive a proportional share of funding for the homeless. Unfortunately, that has not happened.

Moreover, there appears to be a niche that is not being filled in the continuum of service necessary to move chronically affected veterans from being a drain on society to being productive citizens. That niche is transitional housing.

H.R. 3039 authorizes loans for transitional housing programs that will provide a supportive and structured environment for our homeless veterans. The bill has the following features:

The VA would be authorized to guarantee up to 15 loans for multi-unit transitional housing for homeless veterans, but the VA could not guarantee more than 5 loans in the first 3 years of the program. The aggregate value of the loans is capped at \$100 million.

The bill requires VA to obtain advice in administering the program from a

not-for-profit corporation experienced in developing these kinds of programs. This approach obviates the need for the VA to develop additional staff or expertise, and should enable the VA to manage the program within its existing resources.

The borrowers must work with VA health care facilities and State and local authorities to provide a full range of supportive services to maintain sobriety as well as personal counseling and employment services. Projects must work closely with the VA and non-VA sources as a means to reduce the project costs and enhance the effectiveness of the project and other related programs.

This bill requires residents to seek and obtain employment and to maintain sobriety. It is a tough love approach. While the bill does not require a zero tolerance approach to substance abuse for those enrolled in the program, the committee believes that the potential negative impact of those who continue to abuse drugs or alcohol on those wishing to remain clean and sober justifies the zero tolerance.

Finally, residents are required to pay a reasonable fee for their residence because it promotes personal responsibility. Along with staying clean and sober, part of taking personal responsibility is paying one's way in the world and is yet another step towards becoming a fully productive citizen.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee for the bipartisan manner in which we worked through this to bring the bill to the floor. The subcommittee and the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and his staff worked very hard; the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LANE EVANS), who traveled to Buffalo for the hearing we had, I am also appreciative to him, and especially thank the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) for his leadership on the issue.

Madam Speaker, it is a good bill. We believe it fills a void that now exists in the homeless programs, particularly for our veterans in this country, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3039.

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, as the ranking Democrat member of the Subcommittee on Benefits of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I want to also commend the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN), for his leadership on H.R. 3039, the Veterans Transitional Housing Opportunities Act for 1998.

This bill, as the gentleman has explained, will provide the transitional housing so desperately needed by the hundreds of thousands of veterans who sleep on America's streets each night. There is virtually no disagreement

that one-third of the homeless men in this country are veterans. In my hometown of San Diego, it is estimated that 40 to 50 percent of the homeless are veterans.

I am very troubled that this very difficult problem never seems to get better. The number of homeless veterans never seems to decrease. I conclude from this that our approach must change. And although H.R. 3039 is not a panacea, I am convinced this program can provide the assistance and support necessary for homeless veterans to re-establish themselves as solid contributing citizens.

This program emphasizes self-sufficiency by requiring housing providers to make available job counseling to veteran residents and by requiring veterans to find and keep a job and to pay a reasonable fee for their housing. H.R. 3039 will provide a hand up, not a hand-out.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN) for his willingness to reexamine the funding mechanism that was included in H.R. 3039 as introduced. Although the officials of the Veterans Administration did not fully articulate their concerns regarding this section of the bill until rather late in the process, the issues they raised were indeed important, and I am pleased we were able to come to an agreement on the funding issue.

H.R. 3039 is an excellent bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this measure.

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I am pleased to rise in strong support of H.R. 3039, the Veterans Transitional Housing Opportunities Act, creating a pilot program to allow the Department of Veterans Affairs to guarantee loans to community-based organizations providing services for homeless veterans.

I commend the distinguished chairman of our Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), for his work on this bill, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN), and the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) for their work on this important legislation.

Homelessness, regrettably, is a widespread problem among our veterans. It is also unfortunate that many of those veterans who are homeless also require psychiatric care and rehabilitation treatment to recover from alcohol or substance abuse. Moreover, such veterans also often require training in marketable job skills to assist them in earning a living after they have recovered.

The duty of providing housing rehabilitation and job training for homeless veterans is expensive. Increasingly, the

Department of Veterans Affairs, with its new drive towards efficiency and outpatient care, has been unable to meet those needs. This bill directs the VA to guarantee the full or partial repayment of 15 loans to community-based organizations, with a maximum guarantee amount of \$100 million, to fulfill these needs.

Accordingly, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this worthy legislation.

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to thank the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN), and the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER), the ranking member of the subcommittee, as well as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LANE EVANS), the ranking member of the full committee, for all their hard work in putting this bill together.

This is a bipartisan bill, and I would urge the Members to support it.

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3039, the Veterans Transitional Housing Opportunities Act of 1998, and ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

This bill will provide a much needed boost to improving the availability of safe and secure homes for our Veterans. I am proud to join the Chairman and Ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee as a co-sponsor of this important bill, which will provide a much needed boost to the pool of housing for our homeless veterans.

In America, where there is so much prosperity, it is a tragedy that so many of our citizens are homeless, day after day, night after night, looking for shelter. Moreover, it is disturbing that one third of our nation's homeless are men and women who admirably served our country as veterans. This legislation reaffirms our commitment to our veterans wherever they are, to provide them safe and secure shelter. By authorizing \$100 million in loan guarantees for the development of transitional housing, and by providing for support and counseling, I am proud to state that the Veterans' Affairs Committee has sought to bring these homeless veterans hope and independence. A home is the foundation of our country, and this legislation will bring our homeless veterans out from the cold.

Moreover, this legislation is good policy as it provides for partnerships with local communities to provide this housing. By requiring local and community involvement, we can ensure that the specialized needs of our nation's veterans are secured across the country.

As we take up this important legislation, we recommit ourselves to improving the lives of our nation's veterans. Today I stand with my colleagues on the Veterans Committee and the entire House in strongly supporting this bill. This legislation will truly begin to bring our dedicated and courageous veterans home. I encourage its unanimous passage.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to express my support of the Veterans Transitional Housing Opportunities Act of 1998 (H.R. 3039). The statistic noting that one in three homeless Americans are military veterans is staggering. The shortage of transitional housing is a result

of the difficulty of veterans in obtaining financing. This bill helps to address that problem. Our military is one of this country's strongest resources and I believe wholeheartedly, that we owe it to our servicemen and service-women to assist these protectors of our country and Constitution in their time of need.

This bill does not provide assistance without conditions. Those who are eligible to participate in the program must seek and subsequently maintain a job, pay a reasonable rent and remain drug and alcohol free. These safeguards in determining eligibility will protect the program from potential abuses.

In conclusion, I want to applaud Representative STUMP for introducing this bill and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Veterans Transitional Housing Opportunities Act of 1998. These quarter of a million veterans served this country when we needed them, it is now our turn to serve them.

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3039, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1300

AUTHORIZING MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS AND MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3603) to authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 1999, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3603

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects, with each project to be carried out in the amount specified for that project:

(1) Alterations to facilitate consolidation of services in buildings 126 and 150, and demolition of seismically unsafe building 122 at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Long Beach, California, in an amount not to exceed \$23,200,000.

(2) Construction and seismic work at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, San Juan, Puerto Rico, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000,000.

(3) Outpatient clinic expansion at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Cen-

ter, Washington, D.C., in an amount not to exceed \$29,700,000.

(4) Construction of a psychogeriatric care building and demolition of seismically unsafe building 324 at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Palo Alto, California, in an amount not to exceed \$22,400,000.

(5) Construction of an ambulatory care addition and renovations for ambulatory care at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Cleveland (Wade Park), Ohio, in an amount not to exceed \$28,300,000, of which \$7,500,000 shall be derived from funds appropriated for a fiscal year before fiscal year 1999 that remain available for obligation.

(6) Construction of an ambulatory care addition at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Tucson, Arizona, in an amount not to exceed \$35,000,000.

(7) Construction of an addition for psychiatric care at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, in an amount not to exceed \$24,200,000.

(8) Outpatient clinic projects at Auburn and Merced, California, as part of the Northern California Healthcare Systems Project, in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000, to be derived only from funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 1999 that remain available for obligation.

(b) CONSTRUCTION OF PARKING FACILITY.—The Secretary may construct a parking structure at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Denver, Colorado, in an amount not to exceed \$13,000,000, of which \$11,900,000 shall be derived from funds in the Parking Revolving Fund.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into leases for satellite outpatient clinics as follows:

(1) Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in an amount not to exceed \$1,800,000.

(2) Daytona Beach, Florida, in an amount not to exceed \$2,600,000.

(3) Oakland Park, Florida, in an amount not to exceed \$4,100,000.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 1999—

(1) for the Construction, Major Projects, account \$205,300,000 for the projects authorized in section 1(a); and

(2) for the Medical Care account, \$8,500,000 for the leases authorized in section 2.

(b) LIMITATION.—(1) The projects authorized in section 1(a) may only be carried out using—

(A) funds appropriated for fiscal year 1999 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (a);

(B) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 1999 that remain available for obligation; and

(C) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 1999 for a category of activity not specific to a project.

(2) The project authorized in section 1(b) may only be carried out using funds appropriated for a fiscal year before fiscal year 1999—

(A) for the Parking Revolving Fund; or

(B) for Construction, Major Projects, for a category of activity not specific to a project.

SEC. 4. THRESHOLD FOR TREATMENT OF PARKING FACILITY PROJECT AS A MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT.

Section 8109(i)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking out "\$3,000,000" and inserting "\$4,000,000".

SEC. 5. PROCEDURES FOR NAMING OF PROPERTY BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 530. Procedures for naming property

"(a) If the Secretary proposes to designate the name of any property of the Department other than for the geographic area in which that property is located, the Secretary shall conduct a public hearing before making the designation. The hearing shall be conducted in the community in which the property is located. At the hearing, the Secretary shall receive the views of veterans service organizations and other interested parties regarding the proposed name of the property.

(b) Before conducting such a hearing, the Secretary shall provide reasonable notice of the proposed designation and of the hearing. The notice shall include—

"(1) the time and place of the hearing;

"(2) identification of the property proposed to be named;

"(3) identification of the proposed name for the property;

"(c) (1) If after a hearing under subsection (a) the Secretary intends to name the property involved other than for the geographic area in which that property is located, the Secretary shall notify the congressional veterans' affairs committees of the Secretary's intention to so name the property and shall publish a notice of such intention in the Federal Register.

"(2) The Secretary may not designate the property with a name for which a notice was published in the Federal Register pursuant to paragraph (1) until the end of a 60-day period of continuous session of Congress following the date of the submission of notice under paragraph (1). For purposes of the preceding sentence, continuity of a session of Congress is broken only by an adjournment sine die, and there shall be excluded from the computation of such 60-day period any day during which either House of Congress is not in session during an adjournment of more than three days to a day certain.

"(3) Each notice under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

"(A) An identification of the property involved.

"(B) An explanation of the background of, and rationale for, the proposed name.

"(C) A summary of the views expressed by interested parties at the public hearing conducted in connection with the proposed name, together with a summary of the Secretary's evaluation of those views."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 529 the following new item:

"530. Procedures for naming property."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 530 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect as of January 1, 1998.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Stump).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3603, as amended.

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