

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Yarmuth, Van Hollen, Pascrell, Ryan (OH), Castor, McDermott, Pocan, Lujan Grisham, Cárdenas, Blumenauer, Schrader, Doggett, and Kildee

Restore Cuts, Protect VA from Future Government Shutdowns, and Establish Veterans Job Corps

1. Increase discretionary budget authority and outlays for Function 700 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to reflect the amount in the President's budget.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BA	-	1.657	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outlays	-	0.833	0.470	0.185	0.060	0.060	-	-	-	-

2. Increase mandatory budget authority and outlays for Function 700 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to establish a Veterans Job Corps.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BA	1.000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outlays	0.050	0.237	0.237	0.238	0.238	-	-	-	-	-

3. Adjust the aggregate levels of revenue by amounts equal to the foregoing outlay changes in paragraph 1 and 2, reflecting the reduction or elimination of: 1) tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; 2) egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; 3) loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens, resulting in fewer American jobs to support the middle class; 4) tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above \$1 million annually; or adoption of 5) selected business tax reform proposals from Title III of the Tax Reform Act of 2014 such as repealing the existing exemptions to the \$1 million limit on compensation for CEOs and other specified corporate employees that a publicly traded corporation can deduct as a business expense.
4. Delete Sec. (501) (c) (1) and replace with the following to ensure that appropriations for all Veterans activities are provided through advance appropriations:

“(1) \$68,353,000,000 for all discretionary funded activities at the Department of Veterans Affairs; and”

5. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman's mark.
6. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution funds VA discretionary programs at the President's requested level for 2016. The resolution also makes all discretionary programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) subject to advance appropriations, which will ensure a budget is in place for all veterans' programs at the beginning of the fiscal year. As part of extending advance appropriations to the entire discretionary veterans budget, it is the policy of the resolution that the Department of Veterans Affairs submit along with its annual budget a "Future Years Veterans Program" that projects its needs over five years to help facilitate the appropriations and oversight processes. Currently, only VA's medical programs – approximately 85 percent of VA's budget – is provided a year in advance through advance appropriations. The resolution makes eligible for advance appropriations the remaining 15 percent, which includes funding for the day-to-day operations at the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). The government shutdown last fall led to furloughs at the VBA, which resulted in further delays in the processing of benefit claims. Extending advance appropriations to all of VA's discretionary activities would help prevent that from happening again.

The resolution accommodates \$1 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a Veterans Job Corps. The funding will enable veterans, who have endured higher unemployment rates than the rest of the population, to leverage the skills acquired during their military service to jobs in the country's public lands and in its communities. It will immediately put veterans on the job working on conservation and infrastructure projects. These projects would include those that adapt and expand the capacity of veterans' facilities to address changing needs, especially those associated with the growing population of women veterans. It will help place veterans in first responder jobs, including firefighter and law enforcement positions. The initiative will also help veterans overcome barriers to employment, such as assisting with child care services.

The resolution accommodates this necessary level of veterans funding by reducing or eliminating some of the following: tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies; egregious tax breaks such as special depreciation for corporate jets; loopholes in our international corporate tax system that encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens; tax breaks for those with adjusted gross incomes above \$1 million annually; or adopting selected business tax reform proposals from the Tax Reform Act of 2014 such as repealing the existing exemptions to the \$1 million limit on compensation for CEOs and other specified corporate employees that a publicly traded corporation can deduct as a business expense.