

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Carbajal, Yarmuth, Lee, Higgins, DelBene,
Wasserman Schultz, Boyle, Khanna, Jayapal, Jackson Lee, and Schakowsky

Reject Cuts to Veterans' Benefits and Reject Privatization of Veterans' Health Care

1. Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 700 (Veterans Benefits and Services) by the following amounts in billions of dollars to reject cuts to mandatory benefits that our nation's veterans earned.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
BA	0.462	1.715	2.972	4.489	5.691	6.652	7.631	8.635	9.629	11.041
Outlays	0.462	1.715	2.972	4.489	5.691	6.652	7.631	8.635	9.629	11.041

2. Adjust the aggregate levels of revenue by amounts equal to the foregoing outlay changes in paragraph 1 by partially reversing the Republican tax giveaways for the wealthy and corporations enacted in P.L. 115-97, which may include raising the corporate tax rate, restoring the top individual income tax rate up to the pre-P.L. 115-97 level, or restoring the estate and gift tax exemption levels to 2017 law, which would still exempt estates and gifts below \$5.5 million for single individuals and twice that amount for couples.
3. At the end of Title V, add the following:

“POLICY STATEMENT ON VETERANS’ HEALTH CARE

(a) FINDINGS. — The House finds the following:

- (1) The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) operates America's largest integrated health care system, providing care at 1,240 health care facilities, including 170 medical centers and 1,061 outpatient sites of care, serving 9 million enrolled veterans.
- (2) Veterans who put their lives on the line for our country deserve exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being.
- (3) Former Secretary of Veterans Affairs David J. Shulkin stated:

- a. “Working with community providers to adequately ensure that veterans’ needs are met is a good practice. But privatization leading to the dismantling of the department’s extensive health care system is a terrible idea.”
- b. “The private sector, already struggling to provide adequate access to care in many communities, is ill-prepared to handle the number and complexity of patients that would come from closing or downsizing VA hospitals and clinics, particularly when it involves the mental health needs of people scarred by the horrors of war.”
- c. “The department’s understanding of service-related health problems, its groundbreaking research and its special ability to work with military veterans cannot be easily replicated in the private sector.”

(4) A strong VA health care system is crucial for providing exceptional health care to veterans, especially when it comes to providing the specialized care required for service-related health problems.

(b) POLICY ON VETERANS’ HEALTH CARE. — It is the policy of this resolution that Congress should support a strong VA health care system to ensure veterans receive exceptional health care and that Congress should oppose privatization efforts that will lead to the dismantling of the VA health care system and its capability to provide specialized care for service-related health problems.”

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

The resolution assumes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) receives the funding necessary to ensure veterans receive all of the benefits they earned. Providing veterans timely access to quality health care and other benefits has been an ongoing challenge for the VA, and assuring adequate funding is critical for meeting this challenge. The resolution supports full funding of veterans’ discretionary programs, which include veterans’ health care, and mandatory programs, which include veterans’ disability compensation, pensions and education benefits. The resolution assumes funding levels to maintain a strong VA health care system to ensure our veterans receive exceptional health care and to protect the VA’s ability to provide specialized care for service-related health problems.

The resolution accommodates this necessary level of funding to fully fund veterans programs by partially reversing the Republican tax giveaways for the wealthy and corporations enacted in P.L. 115-97, which may include raising the corporate tax rate, restoring the top individual income tax rate up to the pre-P.L. 115-97 level, or restoring

the estate and gift tax exemption levels to 2017 law, which would still exempt estates and gifts below \$5.5 million for single individuals and twice that amount for couples.