AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5620, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO OF CALIFORNIA

Page 54, add after line 2 the following:

SEC. 11. RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER RELIEF FOR VETERANS AFFECTED BY SCHOOL CLOSURE.

(a) Educational Assistance.—

(1) In general.—Section 3312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) Discontinuation of Education Due to School Closure.—

“(1) In general.—Any payment of educational assistance described in paragraph (2) shall not—

“(A) be charged against any entitlement to educational assistance of the individual concerned under this chapter; or

“(B) be counted against the aggregate period for which section 3695 of this title limits the individual’s receipt of educational assistance under this chapter.
“(2) DESCRIPTION OF PAYMENT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Subject to paragraph (3), the payment of educational assistance described in this paragraph is the payment of such assistance to an individual for pursuit of a course or courses under this chapter if the Secretary finds that the individual—

“(A) was forced to discontinue such course pursuit as a result of a permanent school closure; and

“(B) did not receive credit, or lost training time, toward completion of the program of education being pursued at the time of such closure.

“(3) PERIOD FOR WHICH PAYMENT NOT CHARGED.—The period for which, by reason of this subsection, educational assistance is not charged against entitlement or counted toward the applicable aggregate period under section 3695 of this title shall not exceed the aggregate of—

“(A) the portion of the period of enrollment in the course or courses from which the individual failed to receive credit or with respect to which the individual lost training time, as determined under paragraph (2)(B), and
“(B) the period by which monthly stipend is extended under section 3680(a)(2)(B) of this title.”.

(2) Applicability.—Subsection (d) of such section, as added by paragraph (1), shall apply with respect to courses and programs of education discontinued as described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2) of such subsection in fiscal year 2015 or any fiscal year thereafter.

(b) Monthly Housing Stipend.—

(1) In general.—Section 3680(a) of such title is amended—

(A) by striking the matter after paragraph (3)(B);

(B) in paragraph (3), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively;

(D) in the matter before subparagraph (A), as redesignated, in the first sentence, by striking “Payment of” and inserting “(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), payment of”; and
(E) by adding at the end the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary may, pursuant to such regulations as the Secretary shall prescribe, continue to pay allowances to eligible veterans and eligible persons enrolled in courses set forth in paragraph (1)(A)—

“(A) during periods when schools are temporarily closed under an established policy based on an Executive order of the President or due to an emergency situation, except that the total number of weeks for which allowances may continue to be so payable in any 12-month period may not exceed four weeks; or

“(B) solely for the purpose of awarding a monthly housing stipend described in section 3313 of this title, during periods following a permanent school closure, except that payment of such a stipend may only be continued until the earlier of—

“(i) the date of the end of the term, quarter, or semester during which the school closure occurred; and

“(ii) the date that is 4 months after the date of the school closure.”.
(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (1)(C)(ii) of such section, as redesignated, is amended by striking “described in subclause (A) of this clause” and inserting “described in clause (ii)”. 