AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5620
OFFERED BY MR. WALZ OF MINNESOTA

Page 54, after line 2, insert the following:

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

(a) EFFECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 3699. Effects of closure or disapproval of educational institution

“(a) CLOSURE OR DISAPPROVAL.—Any payment of educational assistance described in subsection (b) shall not—

“(1) be charged against any entitlement to educational assistance of the individual concerned; or

“(2) be counted against the aggregate period for which section 3695 of this title limits the receipt of educational assistance by such individual.

“(b) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED.—Subject to subsection (c), the payment of educational assist-
ance described in this paragraph is the payment of such assistance to an individual for pursuit of a course of education at an educational institution under chapters 30, 32, 33, or 35 of this title, or chapters 1606 or 1607 of title 10, if the Secretary determines that the individual—

“(1) was forced to discontinue the pursuit of such course as a result of—

“(A) the permanent closure of the educational institution; or

“(B) the disapproval of such course under this chapter by reason of—

“(i) a provision of law enacted after the date on which the individual enrolls at such institution affecting the approval or disapproval of courses under this chapter; or

“(ii) after the date on which the individual enrolls at such institution, the Secretary prescribing or modifying regulations or policies of the Department affecting such approval or disapproval; and

“(2) did not receive credit, or lost training time, toward completion of the program of education being so pursued.
“(c) Period 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—

“(1) the portion of the period of enrollment in the course from which the individual failed to receive credit or with respect to which the individual lost training time, as determined under subsection (b)(2), and

“(2) the period by which a monthly stipend is extended under section 3680(a)(2)(B) of this title.

“(d) Continuing Pursuit of Disapproved Courses.—(1) The Secretary may treat a course of education that is disapproved under this chapter as being approved under this chapter with respect to an individual described in paragraph (2) if the Secretary determines, on a case-by-case basis, that—

“(A) such disapproval is the result of an action described in clause (i) or (ii) of subsection (b)(1)(B); and

“(B) continuing pursuing such course is in the best interest of the individual.

“(2) An individual described in this paragraph is an individual who is pursuing a course of education at an
education

1 educational institution under chapters 30, 32, 33, or 35
2 of this title, or chapters 1606 or 1607 of title 10, as of
3 the date on which the course is disapproved under this
4 chapter.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
5 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
6 by inserting after the item relating to section 3698
7 the following new item:
8 “3699. Effects of closure or disapproval of educational institution.”.

(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 preceding subparagraph
(A), as redesignated, in the first sentence, by
striking “Payment of” and inserting “(1) Ex-
cept 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 educational institutions 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 closure of an educational institution, or following the disapproval of a course of study described in section 3699(b)(1)(B) of this title, 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 closure or disapproval occurred; and
“(ii) the date that is 120 days after the date of the closure or disapproval.”.

(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)”.