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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R.

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To amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. BROWNLEY of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Affairs Pro-  
5 tection Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR**  
2 **THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 31, United  
4 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1310  
5 the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 1311. CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DE-**  
7 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

8 “(a)(1) If an appropriation for an account under the  
9 heading ‘Department of Veterans Affairs’ for a fiscal year  
10 is not enacted before the beginning of such fiscal year or  
11 a joint resolution making continuing appropriations is not  
12 in effect, there are appropriated such sums as may be nec-  
13 essary to continue any program, project, or activity for  
14 which funds were provided under such heading in the pre-  
15 ceding fiscal year—

16 “(A) in the corresponding appropriation Act for  
17 such preceding fiscal year; or

18 “(B) if the corresponding appropriation bill for  
19 such preceding fiscal year did not become law, then  
20 in a joint resolution making continuing appropria-  
21 tions for such preceding fiscal year.

22 “(2)(A) Appropriations and funds made available,  
23 and authority granted, for a program, project, or activity  
24 for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be at a  
25 rate of operations not in excess of the lower of—

1           “(i) 100 percent of the rate of operations pro-  
2           vided for in the regular appropriation Act providing  
3           for such program, project, or activity for the pre-  
4           ceding fiscal year;

5           “(ii) in the absence of such an Act, 100 percent  
6           of the rate of operations provided for such program,  
7           project, or activity pursuant to a joint resolution  
8           making continuing appropriations for such preceding  
9           fiscal year; or

10           “(iii) 100 percent of the annualized rate of op-  
11           erations provided for in the most recently enacted  
12           joint resolution making continuing appropriations  
13           for part of that fiscal year or any funding levels es-  
14           tablished under the provisions of this Act.

15           “(B) If this section is in effect at the end of a fiscal  
16           year, funding levels shall continue as provided in this sec-  
17           tion for the next fiscal year.

18           “(3) Appropriations and funds made available, and  
19           authority granted, for any fiscal year pursuant to this sec-  
20           tion for a program, project, or activity shall be available  
21           for the period beginning with the first day of a lapse in  
22           appropriations and ending with the date on which the ap-  
23           plicable regular appropriation bill for such fiscal year be-  
24           comes law (whether or not such law provides for such pro-

1 gram, project, or activity) or a continuing resolution mak-  
2 ing appropriations becomes law, as the case may be.

3 “(b) An appropriation or funds made available, or au-  
4 thority granted, for a program, project, or activity for any  
5 fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be subject to the  
6 terms and conditions imposed with respect to the appro-  
7 priation made or funds made available for the preceding  
8 fiscal year, or authority granted for such program, project,  
9 or activity under current law.

10 “(c) Expenditures made for a program, project, or  
11 activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall  
12 be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or au-  
13 thorization whenever a regular appropriation bill or a joint  
14 resolution making continuing appropriations until the end  
15 of a fiscal year providing for such program, project, or  
16 activity for such period becomes law.

17 “(d) This section shall not apply to a program,  
18 project, or activity during a fiscal year if any other provi-  
19 sion of law (other than an authorization of appropria-  
20 tions)—

21 “(1) makes an appropriation, makes funds  
22 available, or grants authority for such program,  
23 project, or activity to continue for such period; or

24 “(2) specifically provides that no appropriation  
25 shall be made, no funds shall be made available, or

1 no authority shall be granted for such program,  
2 project, or activity to continue for such period.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
4 of chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended  
5 by inserting after the item relating to section 1310 the  
6 following new item:

“1311. Continuing appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs.”.