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CHAIRMAN BOB FILNER

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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Committee Passes Innovative Bipartisan Bill to Eliminate Homelessness for Veterans

Washington, D.C. – On Wednesday, March 10, 2010, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs led by Chairman Bob Filner (D-CA), approved five bills that would improve benefits and services to veterans provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

H.R. 4810 – End Veteran Homeless Act of 2010 (Filner)

This bill increases funding to successful programs for homeless veterans, requires each VA medical center that provides supporting housing services to provide housing counselors, requires housing counselors to conduct landlord research, strengthens permanent housing programs, and pays special interest to the needs of homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children.

“Today, this Committee took decisive action to dramatically alter the outlook for veterans that are currently homeless,” said Chairman Filner. *“With remarkable leadership from current and former members of this Committee, we passed legislation to arm the VA with better tools to fight and end homelessness. It is unacceptable that even one of our veterans must sleep on the streets or in shelters after risking their lives on behalf of this country and I am proud this Committee continues to fight for each and every veteran.”*

This bill includes provisions from H.R. 2504 (Teague); H.R. 2559, as amended (Hare); H.R. 2735, as amended (Rodriguez); and H.R. 3906 (Teague).

H.R. 4592 – Energy Jobs for Veterans Act (Teague)

This bill increases job opportunities for veterans by reimbursing energy employers for the cost of providing on-the-job training for veterans in the energy sector. Specifically, the bill creates the pilot “Veterans Energy Related Employment Program” which would award competitive grants to three states that are able to serve a population of eligible veterans, boast a diverse energy industry, and have the ability to carry out such a training program.

**H.R. 3976, as amended – The Veterans Employment and Home Preservation Act of 2010
(Perriello)**

This bill will increase the number of small businesses that can participate in veteran employment training programs and extends expiring protections that safeguard veteran homeowners from foreclosure immediately following deployment.

The bill includes provisions from H.R. 4079 (Perriello).

H.R. 1879, as amended – National Guard Employment Protection Act of 2010 (Coffman)

This bill provides necessary reemployment rights for certain individuals ordered to full-time National Guard duty.

H.R. 4667 – Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2010 (Perriello)

This bill increases the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes. The bill would go into effect December 1, 2010.

The bills will next be considered by the U.S. House of Representatives.

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