SECTION 1. ZACK T. ADDINGTON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 Main Street in Clermont, Georgia, shall be known and designated as the ''Zack T. Addington Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Zack T. Addington Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3821, introduced by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

The bill names the United States Post Office at 430 Main Street in Clermont, Georgia, after U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Zach T. Addington, who was killed in action in the Vietnam war.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) to further describe the bill and Lance Corporal Addington's service to our country.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky and the gentlewoman from New Jersey for being a part of this today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3821, legislation to name the Clermont Post Office after Lance Corporal Zach T. Addington.

I introduced this legislation to honor Zach, a fellow northeast Georgian, for giving his life in service to our Nation during the Vietnam war.

Zach Addington was born to Addison S. and Lillie Addington on November 1, 1948, in Gainesville, Georgia. He and his family lived in Clermont, Georgia, where he attended Clermont Elementary School and my alma mater, which we share, North Hall High School. He graduated in 1967.

Zach enlisted in the United States Marine Corps as a private, in July of 1967, and became a rifleman in the 3rd Marine Division of the Fleet Marine Force. He was promoted to private first class on December 1, 1967, and he was deployed to Vietnam on December 19 of the same year.

On April 1, 1968, Zach was promoted to lance corporal. His company was participating in Operation Scotland II when they engaged hostile forces in the vicinity of Hill 689, four kilometers west-southwest of Khe Sanh Airfield. On May 16, 1968, Zach Addington was killed in action.

His captain, William McArdle, stated that he was ''one of the finest marines I have ever known. His exemplary conduct, leadership, and singular determination to do every job well were qualities that all of us respected.''

On June 6, 1968, Mr. Addington was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon in recognition of his service in Vietnam.

His family hopes to display these awards in the Clermont Post Office after the naming.

He is survived by his brother, Addison S. Addington; and sisters, Billie Quillin and Sandra Montgomery.

The memory of Zach's courage and his service lives on in our corner of Georgia, and the naming of the Clermont Post Office in his honor will be a reminder to all of us of his sacrifice and the sacrifices of the armed services to us all.

There is a time when we come to these post offices and we read accomplishments, Mr. Speaker. We read accomplishments of many folks, but each one has a story to tell. I think really, when you start to listen to the many whom we have talked about today, there is a certain theme of service that runs through each. There is a certain theme of something bigger than themselves, and especially those who gave their life.

Zach Addington was one who went willingly. He knew that he may not return, in fact, even told people he may not, and he did not, but that service and that sacrifice gives us the ability to stand here today and to do what we do. By standing here today, I intend to honor him for the naming of this post office and would encourage my colleagues to vote in favor.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 3821, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Post Office located at 430 Main Street in Clermont, Georgia, as the Zachary Addington Post Office.

Born in Gainesville, Georgia, in 1948, Zachary Addington graduated from North Hall High School in 1967. He chose to enlist in the Marine Corps that year, becoming a private in the 3rd Marine Division of the Fleet Marine Force. He deployed to Vietnam that December as a private first class.

On May 16, 1968, then-Lance Corporal Addington was participating in Operation Scotland II with his company when he was tragically killed in action.

He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal for his honorable service. His captain deemed Lance Corporal Addington one of the finest marines he had ever known.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to commemorate the ultimate sacrifice Lance Corporal Zachary Addington made for our Nation, and I urge the passage of H.R. 3821.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3821, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY USES FOR MEDICAL PRODUCTS TO REDUCE DEATHS AND SEVERITY OF INJURIES CAUSED BY AGENTS OF WAR

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4374) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to authorize additional emergency uses for medical products to reduce deaths and severity of injuries caused by agents of war, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4374

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY USES FOR MEDICAL PRODUCTS TO REDUCE DEATHS AND SEVERITY OF INJURIES CAUSED BY AGENTS OF WAR.

(a) FDA AUTHORIZATION FOR MEDICAL PRODUCTS FOR USE IN EMERGENCIES.—Section 564 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360bbb–3) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

''(B) a determination by the Secretary of Defense that there is a military emergency, or a significant potential for a military emergency, involving a heightened risk to United States military forces, including personnel operating under the authority of title 10 or title 50, United States Code, of attack with—

''(i) a biological, chemical, radiological, or nuclear agent or agents; or

''(ii) an agent or agents that may cause, or are otherwise associated with, an imminently life-threatening and specific risk to United States military forces;''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) MILITARY EMERGENCIES.—In the case of a determination described in paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall determine, within 45 calendar days of such determination,

whether to make a declaration under paragraph (1), and, if appropriate, shall promptly make such a declaration.''; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''; and'' and inserting '';'';

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) in the case of a determination described in subsection (b)(1)(B)(ii), that the request for emergency use is made by the Secretary of Defense; and''.

(b) EMERGENCY USES FOR MEDICAL PRODUCTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may request that the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, take actions to expedite the development of a medical product, review of investigational new drug applications under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)), review of investigational device exemptions under section 520(g) of such Act (21 U.S.C. 360j(g)), and review of applications for approval and clearance of medical products under sections 505, 510(k), and 515 of such Act (21 U.S.C. 355, 360(k), 360(e)) and section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262), including applications for licensing of vaccines or blood as biological products under such section 351, or applications for review of regenerative medicine advanced therapy products under section 506(g) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 356(g)), if there is a military emergency, or significant potential for a military emergency, involving a specific and imminently life-threatening risk to United States military forces of attack with an agent or agents, and the medical product that is the subject of such application, submission, or notification would be reasonably likely to diagnose, prevent, treat, or mitigate such life-threatening risk.

(2) ACTIONS.—Upon a request by the Secretary of Defense under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall take action to expedite the development and review of an applicable application or notification with respect to a medical product described in paragraph (1), which may include, as appropriate—

(A) holding meetings with the sponsor and the review team throughout the development of the medical product;

(B) providing timely advice to, and interactive communication with, the sponsor regarding the development of the medical product to ensure that the development program to gather the nonclinical and clinical data necessary for approval or clearance is as efficient as practicable;

(C) involving senior managers and experienced review staff, as appropriate, in a collaborative, cross-disciplinary review;

(D) assigning a cross-disciplinary project lead for the review team to facilitate an efficient review of the development program and to serve as a scientific liaison between the review team and the sponsor;

(E) taking steps to ensure that the design of the clinical trials is as efficient as practicable, when scientifically appropriate, such as by minimizing the number of patients exposed to a potentially less efficacious treatment;

(F) applying any applicable Food and Drug Administration program intended to expedite the development and review of a medical product; and

(G) in appropriate circumstances, permitting expanded access to the medical product during the investigational phase, in accordance with applicable requirements of the Food and Drug Administration.

(3) ENHANCED COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION.—In order to facilitate enhanced collaboration and communication with respect to the most current priorities of the Department of Defense—

(A) the Food and Drug Administration shall meet with the Department of Defense and any other appropriate development partners, such as the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, on a semi-annual basis for the purposes of conducting a full review of the relevant products in the Department of Defense portfolio; and

(B) the Director of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research shall meet quarterly with the Department of Defense to discuss the development status of regenerative medicine advanced therapy, blood, and vaccine medical products and projects that are the highest priorities to the Department of Defense (which may include freeze dried plasma products and platelet alternatives),

unless the Secretary of Defense determines that any such meetings are not necessary.

(4) MEDICAL PRODUCT.—In this subsection, the term ''medical product'' means a drug (as defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321)), a device (as defined in such section 201), or a biological product (as defined in section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262)).

(c) REPEAL.—Effective as of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, subsection (d) of section 1107a of title 10, United States Code, as added by section 716 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, is repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter to the Senate Committee on Armed Services from the FDA Commissioner, Dr. Scott Gottlieb.

U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
Silver Spring, MD, November 14, 2017.

Senator JOHN MCCAIN,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

Senator JACK REED,
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAIN AND RANKING MEMBER REED: Thank you for your commitment to our Nation's service members and for your leadership in enhancing the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) medical countermeasure authorities and collaborations with the Department of Defense (DoD). FDA shares your goal of protecting our Nation's military service men and women by advancing safe and effective medical products, strengthening our partnerships with the DoD on behalf of our Nation's warfighters, and ensuring that this critical work is prioritized by the Agency.

Our Nation's troops face unique risks on the battlefield, and my colleagues and I at the Agency are committed to implementing a lasting framework that not only considers these unique risks, but prioritizes the warfighters' needs by expediting the development and review of medical countermeasures needed in the face of emerging threats. The bipartisan bill that will be considered alongside the National Defense Authorization Act of 2018 would codify these commitments to ensure that the warfighters' needs for safe and effective medical countermeasures are met on a priority basis and in strong partnerships with DoD.

For instance, I believe this new authority and enhanced collaborations with DoD will help enable FDA to approve freeze dried plasma as soon as 2018, addressing a key medical priority. Further, it will put in place a permanent process for strong engagement between FDA and DoD on any future medical products DoD determines are necessary to address military emergencies. Additionally, under these provisions, FDA would be able to recognize military threats in advance and provide an emergency use authorization for a fuller range of medical products that could help save lives on the battlefield.

Thank you again for your dedication to our Nation's service members and for working with FDA on this meaningful framework to better serve and protect our warfighters. Please be assured that I am personally committed to this effort. I will make it one of my highest priorities as Commissioner to rapidly implement the framework that is called for under this legislation and work with my colleagues at FDA and DoD to create an enduring pathway for the efficient development and prioritization of products intended to help save the lives of military personnel on the battlefield. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me as we implement these new authorities.

Sincerely,

SCOTT GOTTLIEB, M.D.,
Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, our men and women in uniform have put their lives on the line for this country, and they deserve to have the earliest possible access to medical products that could save their lives on the battlefield.

H.R. 4374 will establish important new authorities for the Food and Drug Administration, the FDA, and the Department of Defense, DOD, to ensure that our warfighters have the benefits of new treatments and new devices.

Mr. Speaker, currently the FDA has the authority to authorize the emergency use of an unapproved medical product for a specific set of military emergencies. They have that authority. This emergency use authority requires two things, though. First, the Secretary of Defense must make a determination that there is a risk of attack on military forces with a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear agent. Next, the Secretary of Health and Human Services must make a declaration that there is, in fact, an emergency or threat justifying the emergency use authorization of a product.

To ensure there are no unnecessary delays in this process, this legislation, H.R. 4374, establishes a deadline for the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Once the Secretary of Defense

makes a declaration of an imminent risk of attack, the Secretary of Health and Human Services has 45 days—that is the maximum—to make a declaration that such a risk exists.

Limiting the threat under which an emergency use can be authorized to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear agents, frankly, has been too narrow to incorporate all the serious threats of harm to our troops.

To address this problem, H.R. 4374 establishes a new category under which the emergency use authorization process can be triggered. H.R. 4374 expands this authority to include situations where the Secretary of Defense makes a determination that there is risk of attack with any agent that may cause an imminently life-threatening and specific risk to the United States military forces.

In addition to creating new pathways for emergency access to unapproved medical devices, H.R. 4374 also creates a new breakthrough designation to expedite actual FDA approval of medical products for military emergencies.

Currently, the breakthrough pathway exists only for products intended to treat serious, life-threatening conditions where the Secretary determines such a product may demonstrate significant improvement over existing therapies.

□ 1600

Mr. Speaker, this expedited approval is based on the successful breakthrough designation created by Congress back in 2012. This has worked. It has accelerated oncology drug reviews by more than 2 years.

Now, in short, H.R. 4374 addresses the critical issue of military access to the newest available products by expanding the circumstances under which emergency use authorizations can be issued and by establishing an expedited pathway to full approval of products that the Secretary of Defense requests.

Mr. Speaker, policies in this bill are bipartisan. They were developed with the input from the administration as well as the authorizing committees in the House and the Senate. Additionally, CBO has indicated that H.R. 4374 will have no impact on direct spending or revenue. So, Mr. Speaker, this is not only a good bill, it is an important bill for our men and women in uniform, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4374.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we are considering legislation that would authorize additional emergency uses for medical products in response to the needs of the Department of Defense in the instance of a military emergency.

Like all of my colleagues, I want to ensure that our military personnel who put their life in harm's way for our freedom have access to the medical products that they need, and I have supported and will continue to support policies that further the goal of protecting our troops from life-threatening risks.

However, these policies also have to be balanced to ensure that, in our effort to protect troops from harm, we are not inadvertently exposing them to additional risk from unproven products. That is why I was disappointed to learn that the National Defense Authorization Act conference report included a policy supported by the Senate that would have given the Secretary of Defense authority to authorize emergency access to unapproved medical products, an authority that solely rests within the Food and Drug Administration today.

This provision was not the subject of hearing and debate, did not receive the congressional oversight it should have, and I believe decisions of such consequence should go through regular order, providing Members and stakeholders with the opportunity to learn fully of the risks and benefits associated with transferring regulatory oversight of medical products to an agency that is not equipped with the expertise and medical product knowledge of the FDA.

While I am not pleased with the process and how it has unfolded, I do support H.R. 4374 because I believe it will maintain emergency use authority with the agency that has the resources and scientific expertise needed to make decisions about access to unproven medical products. It is solely the FDA that has been charged with weighing the risks and benefits of medical products and making determinations as to their safety and effectiveness, and this legislation maintains the FDA's important role in that process.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4374 not only addresses the Department of Defense's concerns about access to medical products in instances of military emergencies, but it also goes further by providing them with additional support, in this instance, to expedite the development and review of medical products that are of priority to the Department. It also commits FDA to regularly meeting with the Department of Defense to discuss their priorities and product pipelines.

So I just want to thank FDA Commissioner Gottlieb, Chairman WALDEN, Senate Health Committee Chairman ALEXANDER, and Ranking Member MURRAY for working to find a compromise that will maintain proper regulatory oversight over emergency uses of unproved medical products, while also ensuring that our Nation's military has access to the products that they need in a military emergency situation.

I do urge my colleagues to vote in support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of the gentleman from New Jersey as we work on this together.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), chairman of our Subcommittee on Environment and a veteran himself.

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, it is great to be on the floor today.

It was an awesome opportunity to be a conferee on the National Defense Authorization bill. As a veteran, 5 years active Army Infantry, 23 in the Reserves, I don't get a chance to do that very often because I am on the best committee in Congress, which is Energy and Commerce. But to be able to be in that process, I am very appreciative to you and to the other conferees.

It was then that you learn what you learn, and the military had a problem. They had a long-delayed issue on freeze-dried plasma that is inexcusable, and they took action in the legislative language to rectify that delay, and we would, too. But the legislative process worked.

I also want to commend my colleagues on the minority side and Ranking Member PALLONE because what we want for our men and women in uniform, we want them to get an expedited pathway to lifesaving devices and drugs. But we also want to make sure that those things are safe, and the premier institution for safety and efficacy is the Food and Drug Administration.

Now, we have a new administration that probably wouldn't have had an 8-year delay on freeze-dried plasma, and we have a new administrator of the FDA who has committed to reform these processes.

But good intentions are not all that we need. We need legislative language. We need to enshrine these changes in the law, and this is a good example, when I used to teach government history in high school, of how government works: House bill, Senate bill, go to conference. Even after a conference, it wasn't just right, so the legislative leaders went to work to fix this.

The changes have been identified by both the ranking member and the chairman, but the bottom line is the FDA needs to have the opportunity to look and expedite the drug. And we actually give them a shot clock for those people in harm's way, to make sure that drugs and devices are available to our warfighters, that it is safe and secure and delivered in a timely manner. This is the least we can do for our men and women in uniform.

I thank my colleagues on both sides, and I thank Chairman THORNBERRY.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any other speakers at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), who I believe is also a West Point graduate. We appreciate his counsel, and I concur.

I appreciate working with the House Armed Services Committee and its very able chairman, my friend, MAC THORNBERRY.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE), the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, a doctor himself and a veteran.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4374 because our Nation's servicemembers deserve the best and safest medical treatments available, especially when they are in harm's way.

This bill fixes a provision in the FY 2018 NDAA which passed the House overwhelmingly just yesterday, which would have allowed the Secretary of Defense to approve the emergency use of medications that have not yet received FDA approval.

Under today's legislation, we ensure the FDA will review any emergency DOD request for the use of unapproved medical products on an expedited basis while maintaining the FDA's critical role of evaluating the safety and effectiveness of treatments. This new authorization will include situations when the Secretary of Defense determines the risk of attack with an agent that may cause an imminently life-threatening and specific risk to the United States' military forces.

As a physician and a veteran myself and the chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have worked tirelessly to ensure our Nation's servicemembers have access to the best, safest, and most effective medical treatments available while they are in service and after.

While we all want these breakthrough treatments made available to our Nation's men and women in service as quickly as possible, we need to make sure that they are safe and effective before subjecting members of our Armed Forces to unproven treatments in the interest of expedience.

I have personally spoken to the FDA Commissioner, Dr. Scott Gottlieb on this issue, and he assures me that the FDA will work in a collaborative way with DOD to ensure the processes work more effectively for our troops.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN), a great public servant who has served our Nation, I think, in two different uniforms and is a terrific member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4374, having served in the first Gulf war when military analysts were saying or predicting that there could be 30,000 coalition casualties in a ground war with Iraq.

We knew that Saddam Hussein had both chemical and biological stockpiles, and, at that time, there was an experimental drug given for the pretreatment to increase the survival after the exposure to nerve gas. It was untested in terms of the FDA, did not go through their lengthy bureaucratic process, but it was, I think, correctly assumed by military leaders that the risk of giving this drug that didn't go through all the bureaucratic processes that I think are important, that the risk of nerve gas exposure outweighed those risks.

So I just want to commend the Energy and Commerce Committee as well as the leadership of the Armed Services Committee, the leadership of both committees, for working together with the Department of Defense and the FDA to find that middle ground where the military can have access to drugs and medical devices expeditiously in order to meet the rapidly changing threats on the battlefield.

I again thank Chairman THORNBERRY for his unyielding support on this issue. I also thank Chairman WALDEN for offering legislation that seeks to put this process on the right path.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), a terrific member of our Conference and of the Armed Services Committee, again, a practitioner of medicine, a saver of wounded people, including our own whip of the House.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4374. This provision would amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to authorize additional emergency uses for medical products to reduce deaths and severity of injuries caused by agents of war.

Having served as a combat surgeon in Iraq, I understand the importance of being able to administer lifesaving treatments at a moment's notice. Our servicemembers going into harm's way must be confident that their corpsmen, medics, docs, and health professionals are equipped with the latest technology to save lives every time.

Freeze-dried plasma is used during the initial resuscitation of combat casualties. Since 2011, 24 severely injured U.S. troops have been treated with freeze-dried plasma provided by the French, who have used this successfully since 1994. Of those patients, 17 lives were saved due to rapid treatment with freeze-dried plasma.

H.R. 4374 is important because it puts a process in place to broaden the definition of military emergencies and provides the Department of Defense with access to expedited FDA processes for the investigational products like freeze-dried plasma.

I support Chairman THORNBERRY's unwavering leadership on this issue. With rapidly developing medical technology, the FDA must be part of the modernization and readiness of our Armed Forces. We are committed to ensuring that the FDA does the best it can for our deployed forces, and I hope that we can find a way to enable the FDA to consider approved research and clinical studies from our allies in an effort to aid their approval process.

The future will likely bring more medical devices and drugs that can save lives. Having a process to approve and implement emerging medical technologies is a matter of life and death, especially for our brave troops.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1615

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, you have heard from my colleagues the importance of this legislation. We found a good balance with our friends in the Armed Services Committee and in working with the FDA and with the leadership of the Pentagon to get this right. What matters most to Americans is that we take care of our warriors on the field when they are injured, and when they are in harm's way that we are doing the best possible thing we can for them.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is important legislation. I encourage my colleagues to vote for it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to vote in support of this legislation. I do think it is a good compromise dealing with these military emergencies, but at the same time making sure that the FDA, which has responsibility for approving medical products, still retains its authority.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge a ''yes'' vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DONOVAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4374.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3821, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2672, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

ZACHARY ADDINGTON POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3821) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 Main Street in Clermont, Georgia, as the ''Zachary Addington Post Office'', as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.