

Remarks for EO Chairman Jodey Arrington for the A.N.S. to H.R. 3561
Full Committee Markup
October 12, 2017

[After calling up H.R. 3561, the Chairman will say “The bill is now open for amendment at any point. Who seeks recognition for the purpose of offering an amendment?” and you say:]

Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment in the nature of a substitute at the desk.

[The Chairman will recognize the Clerk to begin reading the A.N.S. then he will recognize you for 5 minutes to discuss your A.N.S. so you say:]

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Walz thank you for holding this markup today and including this bill, H.R. 3561, which I was proud to introduce with my subcommittee Ranking Member and my fellow Texan, Mr. O’Rourke.

The underlying bill will improve timeliness for veterans to receive a VA-approved appraisal and lower costs during the stressful process of buying a home. The Ranking Member and I held an oversight hearing on this issue earlier this year to examine the delays veterans were experiencing in some areas who were using their VA-guaranteed loan. We found that these delays were created by veterans often having to wait weeks for a VA approved appraisal which could affect their ability to close on the home. That led us to the introduction of H.R. 3561 to allow for desktop based appraisals by an approved third party.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment in the nature of a substitute would make a minor technical change to the bill and would also include a Congressional reporting requirement. This report would require VA to provide this committee information on what effect this new approved-third party desk top appraisal program has on veterans, both in cost and timeliness. I believe this is critical as it will allow this Committee to have oversight over this new authority and ensure that it is having the desired outcomes for veteran homebuyers – appraisals done at a lower cost to the veteran and in a time that allows the veteran to successfully close on their new home.

Again, I thank my friend, Mr. O’Rourke for his help on the underlying bill and his ongoing support as my Ranking Member. I yield back the balance of my time.