

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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**Opening Statement**  
**Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings**

**H.R. 4431, the Correcting Miscalculations in Veterans' Pensions Act**

**November 30, 2017**

I thank Representative Carter and our other colleagues on this Committee for their sponsorship of this bipartisan bill.

This measure would authorize agencies to pay interest on military service deposits in cases in which administrative error causes interest to be due. Military service members who transition to civilian service may elect to have past military service factored into their federal civilian pensions by making deposits, or payments, to the civilian retirement fund.

These payments are intended to align with the contribution to the pension fund the employees would have made for the years of service they are credited with for military service.

Current law requires these payments to be paid within two years of starting civilian service. After this date, interest is assessed on any outstanding payments.

Sometimes, agencies make mistakes calculating the deposit amount that is due. In these cases, it is only fair that the agencies that made the errors should pay the accrued interest.

Under current law or regulation, not all agencies have the authority to pay such accrued interest. The bill would close this loophole.

I think the legislation could be improved by making similar changes to the parallel provisions in title 5 regarding deposits for VISTA and Peace Corps service. I understand that there will be an amendment to this effect a bit later.

I urge my colleagues to support both the bill and the amendment.

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