

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: National Officers  
Supervisory National Service Officers  
Department Commanders and Adjutants  
National Legislative Interim Committee  
DAVA National Adjutant  
DAV CAN Members  
Action E-List Members

FROM: Joseph A. Violante, National Legislative Director

SUBJ: FUNDING LEVEL

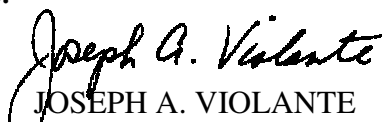
DATE: March 3, 2006

The House Committee on the Budget is preparing to decide, on Wednesday, March 8, 2006, the level of funding it is recommending to the full House of Representatives, to fund the activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the new fiscal year that begins on October 1. ***This decision is crucial for sick and disabled veterans who rely on VA health care to meet their needs.***

The *Independent Budget* produced by DAV, VFW, AMVETS and PVA, recommended VA medical care be increased to \$32.4 billion, ***almost \$1 billion more that was requested by President Bush*** for this account next year. The two Veterans Affairs Committees have also recommended the budget for veteran's benefits and services be increased above the President's proposed level.

***We need everyone to contact your elected Members of Congress to urge their support of the level of funding requested in the Independent Budget, a budget by veterans, for veterans.*** If the Independent Budget were adopted as the Congressional budget for veterans, we believe VA would receive enough funding to be able to meet your health care needs next year. If Congress enacts a lower budget, we fear repetition of the VA funding problems that came to light last summer to produce another public embarrassment of the President and Congress.

***Please call or email your elected Congressional Representative today to tell that Representative that you demand the House Budget Committee adopt the Independent Budget for Veterans Benefits and Services, so-called "Function 700" in the coming Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 8.***

  
JOSEPH A. VIOLANTE  
National Legislative Director

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