

Dear Representative:

I write to ask you to urge the House Budget Committee to consider and approve the level of funding for the health care functions of the Department of Veterans Affairs that is equal to the funding level recommended in the fiscal year 2007 *Independent Budget* for those accounts.

While the President's budget claims to be the largest-ever funded increase in veterans' benefits and services, the truth is that most of the increase claimed must be paid by veterans themselves to the VA, in the form of new and higher fees and co-payments, or in "efficiencies," simply taxes that will be levied across the board on VA health care facilities nationwide, gutting programs and reducing veterans' access to VA health care. **At a time of war, this kind of budget for veterans is unacceptable to me as your constituent.** I ask you to urge the Budget Committee, which is scheduled to approve a budget for veterans' benefits and services on March 8, 2006, to adopt the *Independent Budget* for veterans, rather than accept the false promises to veterans that are contained in the President's budget request.

Please support the needs of veterans in your Congressional District who must rely on the VA health care system by endorsing the 2007 *Independent Budget*, a budget by veterans for veterans.

Sincerely,