

**Congress of the United States**

**House of Representatives**

**Washington, DC 20515**

June 28, 2005

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

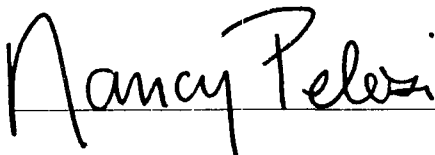
We are writing to request that you submit a FY 2005 supplemental funding request adding at least \$1.3 billion to address the shortfall in veterans' health care funding that your Administration has identified. This additional funding is urgently needed today to care for troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the heroes from former conflicts who rely upon the VA for their health care. In addition, we request that you submit an amended FY 2006 budget to account for the veterans' health care shortfall that is now evident in your Administration's 2006 budget request.

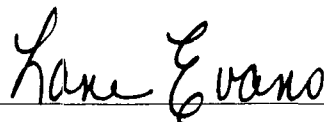
In our estimation, your FY 2005 VA budget request was short \$2.5 billion. While Congress added \$1.2 billion, your budget remained \$1.3 billion short. It appears the VA now agrees with our original estimate.

The 2006 budget request was similarly short. What is even more troubling is that funding for veterans' health care beyond 2007 is cut significantly below the amount needed merely to account for inflation. In the future, we urge you to submit veterans' budgets that more accurately reflect the resource requirements of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the health care needs of current veterans and the many thousands returning from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. At a time of war, funding for veterans must be made a clear and unmistakable priority.

We await the submission of your FY 2005 supplemental funding request and amended FY 2006 budget.

Sincerely,

  
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Chet Edwards

Hyman

Robert Menendez

James E. Clyburn

John Spain

Calvin Emanuel

Rosa L. Swamee

George Miller

Heath

Van Okey

Jim PM

Paul Hargis

Charles Blangiel

Tom Lantos

Jane Harman

Bennie G. Thompson

Jed Strickland

Lynn C. Woolsey

Mi V. Gutierrez

Bart Gordon

Bart Szpak

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Yvonne H. Valencia

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Vin Snyder

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Shelley Bentley

Stephanie Tereseth Michael H. Michael

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Gene Taylor

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Barney Frank

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Wanda Lindsey

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Debra Wasserman Schultz

Robert Wexler

Liane E. Watson

Bill Stuntz

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Hank Johnson

Mike Ron

Paul A. Ryan

Robert A. Byrd

John Lewis

David Scott

Allen Boyd

Jim Matheson

Steve Roth

Jon Odell

Chris Van Hollen

Leonard B. Berman

Julia Carson

~~W. Odell~~

Eddie Bernice Johnson

J. M. Chester

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~~Gregory W. Meade~~

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Jinfa Chen

Frank Pallone

Madeline F. Bordallo

Bill Keener

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Paul Bonheur

Erin L. Emge

~~William S. McHugh~~ Ed Bous

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Janet Park

Shenod Brower

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Judd Nadler

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Paul Lane

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Alpine Waters

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Bral Soble

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Louise M. Slaughter

Ed Pastor

David Wu

Ami Durr

Rail of Hijab

Rob a Brady

ma shoo

Patrick J. Kennedy

Christine

Robert J. C...  
~~...~~

Bro Connor

Paul Fattah

Bobby L. Rush

Paul Buchman

Cyne: