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HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs has guaranteed that the **health insurance reform legislation does not undermine or change** the Department of Veterans Affairs mandate to provide comprehensive health care to veterans.

On March 20, 2010, the House passed the TRICARE Affirmation Act, legislation to ensure that health care programs for veterans, active duty military, retired military and their families/survivors are not affected negatively by the health insurance reform legislation.

Priority Veterans' Legislation Passed by the House

PREVENT AND END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

H.R. 4810 increases funding to successful programs for homeless veterans, requires each VA medical center that provides supporting housing services to provide housing counselors, strengthens permanent housing programs, and pays special interest to the needs of homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children. H.R. 1171 strengthens national efforts to prevent America's heroes from ever becoming homeless.

PROTECT NATIONAL GUARD CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT

H.R. 1879 extends key reemployment rights to those called up for full-time National Guard duty. Since September 11, 2001, the National Guard has played a critical role in federal missions and a small but increasing number of National Guard members are bumping up against the five-year protection for their civilian jobs. This bill provides necessary reemployment rights for certain individuals ordered to full-time National Guard duty.

SAFEGUARD VETERAN HOMEOWNERS

H.R. 3976 extends expiring protections that safeguard veteran homeowners from foreclosure for nine months following deployment.

WELCOME HOME WOMEN VETERANS

The number of female veterans enrolled for medical care with the Department is expected to increase by 30 percent in the next five years. H.R. 1211 expands and improves VA services for the 1.8 million women veterans currently receiving VA health care, by providing child care at some VA locations and concentrating treatment efforts for post-traumatic stress disorder.

SUPPORT VETERAN CAREGIVERS

H.R. 3155 provides immediate support for America's wounded warriors – by conducting outreach, providing training, and offering counseling to their caregivers.

IMPROVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES

H.R. 3219 establishes the position of Director of Physician Assistant Services, prohibits the VA from collecting certain copayments from veterans who are catastrophically disabled, establishes a Committee on Care of Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury, and assigns a higher priority status for VA hospital care and medical services for veterans who are recipients of the Medal of Honor.