



May 19, 2006

Possible Amendments to the Military Quality of Life Appropriations Act, 2007

Part II

The following contains information on amendments not pre-printed that may be offered.

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Amendments Not Pre-printed in the Congressional Record

DeLauro, (D-CT): According to news reports, this amendment would increase funding for the Defense Health Program by \$10 million, in order to fund a **new pilot program** to provide in-person mental health assessments to service members when they deploy or return from combat. NOTE: As of press time, the sponsor's office was unable to provide text or talking points on this amendment. In addition, it is not known if this increase in funding is offset with a reduction elsewhere in the bill. The sponsor has indicated this amendment will be withdrawn.

Edwards (D-TX): According to news reports, this amendment would appropriate \$735 million for the Defense Health Program "to provide an amount of funding that would have been provided by the increased fees for military retirees proposed by the Administration, but rejected by the Appropriations Committee." In addition, the news report stated that, "the amendment offsets the cost of this appropriation by reducing by 2% the average tax cut that would be received by people making more than \$1 million a year." In short, this would be considered **raising taxes** on these individuals. NOTE: As of press time, the sponsor's office was unable to provide text or talking points on this amendment, *but it is likely this amendment will be subject to a point of order.*

Farr (D-CA). Increases funding in the bill for the Veterans Health Administration by a total of \$1.8 billion, distributed as follows:

- \$26.8 billion (up from \$25.4 billion) for VA Medical Services
- \$3.4 billion (up from \$3.3 billion) for VA Medical Administration
- \$460 million (up from \$412 million) for VA Prosthetic Research

- \$1.6 billion (up from \$1.5 billion) for VA Operating Expenses
- \$77.5 million (up from \$69.5 million) for the VA Inspector General
- \$399 million (up from \$283.7 million) for VA Construction, Major Projects

The amendment would also “offset” the increase in VA funding by raising taxes on individuals who make more than \$1 million annually, by reducing the Bush Tax Cuts by 4.4% for these individuals. *This is likely subject to a point of order.*

Moore (D-WI). Increases the overall appropriations in the bill by \$32.5 million. The amendment sponsor intends this increase to be for the Spinal Cord Injury Center at the Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, WI. No offset would be provided. *This amendment is subject to a point of order. The amendment sponsor’s office will likely offer and withdraw this amendment, just to talk about the issue.*

Obey (D-WI). Although the office refused to provide text as of press time, the amendment sponsor’s office reports that this amendment would remove the “emergency” designation for the \$508 million (as scored by CBO) “in additional funds for military construction accounts for projects supporting contingency operations related to the global war on terrorism.” This funding is for 20 war-related projects (requested as a regular appropriation by the President), as detailed in the RSC Legislative Bulletin for the underlying MilQual Appropriations bill (H.R. 5385). The amendment sponsor reports that this increase in regular appropriations would be offset “by **reducing the tax cut** for people making more than \$1 million by \$1,400, which amounts to 1% of their tax cut” (emphasis added). *This amendment is subject to a point of order.*