



# Congressman Ben Cardin

Maryland's Third District



## Congressman Ben Cardin - Maryland's Third District

[Website](#) | [Biography](#) | [Constituent Services](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Key Cardin Issues](#) | [News](#)

Dear Friends,

While the Bush Administration's budget cuts the funding for important domestic programs to pay for an additional \$70 billion in tax cuts, I am particularly disturbed by proposed cuts to our veterans' health care system.

Since 1999, enrollment in the VA health care system has increased from 4.3 million to approximately 7.4 million in 2004. Yet, funding has not kept pace. Funding for the VA health system has increased by less than 10% since 2001, even though VA officials have testified that annual increases of 13-14% are necessary just to maintain current levels of service.

As America continues to welcome a new generation of veterans home from Iraq and Afghanistan, the Administration recently acknowledged a \$1 billion shortfall in the veterans' health care budget for FY 2005. Last summer, Congress corrected the shortfall for FY 2005, but a \$3 billion shortfall still remains in the FY 2006 budget.

I also am distressed that the proposed FY 2006 budget would cut approximately \$12 million from medical and prosthetic research from FY 2004 levels, just as our soldiers are in more need of such expertise.

Our veterans earned their benefits by protecting and defending us. Their health care is an ongoing responsibility that we should be willing to shoulder.

Sincerely,

**Benjamin L. Cardin**  
Member of Congress



### REP. CARDIN VISITS INJURED VETERANS ABOARD THE FORMER PRESIDENTIAL YACHT THE USS SEQUOIA

The Congressman visits with Spec.4 Nicholas Beintema, 23, who is with the Army's Third Cavalry from Ft. Carson, Colorado. In April, Nicholas was wounded in Iraq when an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded under his truck. He has received months of treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

**Yes, please send me these informational E-News Updates in the future.\***

**Join Now**

\*Please note that your E-mail address will not be shared with anyone.

#### Previous Survey Question Results

Do you support significant cuts in federal student aid programs to fund President Bush's proposal to cut taxes by an additional \$70 billion?

Answer	Percent
Yes	20.69%
No	79.31%
Total	100%

#### New Survey Question

Would you support raising enrollment fees and co-payments for higher-income veterans?

Yes

No

If you are having trouble, [click here.](#)

#### Contact Information

website: <http://cardin.congressnewsletter.net/mail/util.cfm?>

mailaction=clickthru&gpiv=199992535.156132.93&gen=1&mailing\_linkid=3712

**District Office**  
600 Wyndhurst Ave.  
Suite 230  
Baltimore, MD 21210  
410-433-8886  
fax: 410-433-2110

**Washington D.C. Office**  
2207 Rayburn House Office  
Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-4016  
fax: 202-225-9219

**Annapolis Outreach Office**  
Mondays, 9 a.m.-noon  
or by appointment  
44 Calvert St., Suite 349  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410-974-9703

[Update My Profile](#) - [Unsubscribe](#) - [Privacy Policy](#)