

One Hundred Eighth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Office of the Democratic Leader

September 17, 2003

The Honorable Lane Evans
U.S. House of Representatives
2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Evans:

Thank you for contacting me with your support of funding for veterans healthcare. I am proud to continue with you in the fight to fully support our veterans. As the VA-HUD conference committee begins, the \$1.8 billion promised by the Republicans in their budget must be added.

The veterans' health care system is in crisis. More than 100,000 veterans are waiting six months or more for a medical appointment at Veterans Administration hospitals. We owe it to the men and women who defended our country to provide the quality health care that our veterans deserve and have earned. This should not be a partisan issue. But unfortunately, Republicans are failing to live up to the promise they made in their budget. Democrats have fought to increase funding for veterans' health care many times over the past couple of months in committee and on the House floor. Now, Democrats will fight to ensure that the \$1.8 billion is added to the veterans healthcare system in the VA-HUD conference report.

We must fulfill our promise to those who have paid the high price for our freedom -- those who have worn our nation's uniform. Millions of men and women have stood in defense of our nation and have earned the best health care possible. Today, hundreds of thousands of young Americans are in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the globe as our defenders. They will come home Veterans. They, too, have earned health care second to none.

Thank you for your leadership.

Best regards,


NANCY PELOSI