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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2005

*House of Representatives*

## APPROPRIATIONS WOEFULLY INADEQUATE FOR OUR VETERANS!

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, as a Senior Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I oppose this appropriations bill because the amount included for veterans' healthcare is woefully inadequate. An additional \$2.6 billion, the amount called for in the Obey amendment which was not accepted, is desperately needed for the coming fiscal year because the number of veterans is growing and the quantity of health care per veteran is growing.

As many of our servicemembers return from Iraq and Afghanistan without legs and arms and with many and varied physical and mental health care needs, as many of our veterans live longer and need long-term care, a grateful nation should be prepared to provide for them. Shamefully, this appropriations bill does not keep that promise, and I cannot support it.

Finally, the new appropriations structure irresponsibly pits active military needs against veterans needs. Our great Nation can support both!