



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

September 29, 2006

Dear Colleague:

As more of our brave servicemen and women go into harm's way to protect our freedom, and as those who stood guard on the watchtowers of freedom during the 20th Century continue to age, it is more important than ever for Congress to provide adequate funding for Veterans Administration (VA) medical services. That is why I introduced H.R. 5967, the America's Commitment to Veterans Act, and H.R. 5968, the Veterans Community Health Enhancement Act of 2006.

H.R. 5967 would increase funding for VA medical care in Fiscal Year 2007 by approximately \$600 million; the level requested by several major Veterans Service Organizations in their *Independent Budget*. This would be achieved in a budget-neutral fashion by defunding two lower-priority programs – the Legal Services Corporation and Title X family planning – and transferring that money to the VA medical services account. As our national debt approaches \$8.5 trillion, we must make difficult choices about our priorities. I believe that we need to put freedom's defenders near the top of our priority list.

H.R. 5968 would redirect approximately \$250 million for FY 2007 to the VA medical services account for the express intent of enhancing services provided by VA community-based outpatient clinics. This would be achieved in a budget-neutral fashion by defunding the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. It is critical that our disabled veterans have access to high quality health care in their communities, and this legislation would give the VA additional funding to provide for this important service.

President Calvin Coolidge once said that, "The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten." Let us come together now to remember our veterans.

If you have any questions or would like to cosponsor, please contact John Martin with Congressman Hensarling at x53484 or john.martin@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeb Hensarling".

JEB HENSARLING
Member of Congress