

**STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN BOB FILNER
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

January 27, 2010

- Thank you Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren for this opportunity to appear before your committee to discuss the Committee on Veterans' Affairs budget authority for the First Session of the 111th Congress. Ranking Member Steve Buyer joins me here today in support of our budget.

- As you know, the Committee has oversight of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA is the second largest federal agency, employing over 260,000 people with a budget authority of over \$108 billion dollars.

- The VA Committee's total budget authority for the First Session of the 111th Congress was 3,761,006. The Committee spent 99.46% of our total budget. Our December monthly report shows that we have spent 3,614,088.82. I would like to add that we have outstanding obligations of \$126,564.50 which includes salaries for January 1 and 2, and other purchases. Our ending balance is \$20,352.68.

- Administratively, the Committee splits the salary allotment by two-thirds to one-third, with the Minority controlling their own payroll budget.
- The Committee on Veterans' Affairs held 54 hearings total this year, two of which were field hearings, five roundtables, five Joint Hearings with the Senate, and eighteen markups. Our 2009 allotment allowed us to pay for field hearings and oversight trips. We were also able to begin participation in webcasting our hearings and upgrade and replace two servers. Our wish list for 2010 includes a new constituent management mail system.
- The Committee's budget allows us to continue to provide the highest quality oversight to ensure veterans, family members and survivors, who access the VA, have the highest quality of care and services.

Closing:

- Mr. Chairman, we have always been a small Committee with a big responsibility. Let me assure you with great pride that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs gives the Congress and the veterans of this country their money's worth everyday
- I am happy to answer any questions you might have today.