

CONGRESSWOMAN CAROLYN B. MALONEY

Making Veterans a Priority in the 110th Congress



Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Neighbor:

With the War in Iraq increasing the number of veterans in our country daily, it is now more important than ever to improve the benefits and healthcare for those who so bravely served our country. Over 1,200 soldiers from New York alone have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am proud to share with you the significant progress that the Democratic Majority in the 110th Congress has made for our nation's veterans.

First and foremost, the 110th Congress passed H.R. 2764, the FY2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which includes \$37.2 billion for veterans' medical care, which is \$2.6 billion above the President's request. This funding will enable the Veterans Health Administration to treat more than 5.8 million patients in 2008, including more than 263,345 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

After disturbing reports of poor treatment and conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center exposed problems throughout the military and veterans' medical systems, we've focused on improving healthcare for wounded soldiers and veterans. Several committees in the House of Representatives, including the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of which I am a member, have held hearings to identify problems for returning servicemembers and veterans, and the ability of the Defense Department and the Veterans' Administration to address them.

Sadly, mental health is often overlooked as a serious problem affecting those who have served in combat. The Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act was signed into law on November 5, 2007. This new law directs the Veterans' Administration to implement a suicide prevention program, including screening, counseling and treatment for veterans, training for health care workers, designation of suicide prevention counselors at all VA medical facilities, and a 24-hour toll-free hotline. I was a cosponsor of this bill, because I believe that we can and should do more to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans.

Both houses of Congress have also passed H.R. 1538, the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007, which would improve the lives of wounded soldiers by assigning a case manager to each servicemember receiving outpatient care, and facilitates an easier transition between Department of Defense and Veterans' Administration care.

As you can see, the Democratic Congress is committed to improving the lives of veterans. Throughout my time in Congress I have made veterans' issues a priority, and I will continue to ensure that the brave men and women who have served our country have access to the services they need.

Please contact my office if we can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carolyn B. Maloney".

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

P.S. If you would like to receive email updates about news and issues affecting New York and the nation, please fill out the form on the back of this letter, or visit my website at <http://maloney.house.gov> to sign up.



Official Business

Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3214

M.C.
PRSRT:STD

Useful Contacts for Veterans and Dependents

It's sometimes hard to find the right place to call to solve a specific problem.

If the numbers below don't solve your problem, please contact one of my offices for additional help!

VA Benefits.....1-800-827-1000	Headstones and Markers.....1-800-697-6947
Health Benefits1-877-222-8387	Special Health Issues: Gulf War, Agent Orange, Project 112/Shad1-800-749-8387
Education Benefits1-888-442-4551	Queens Veteran Counseling.....1-718-296-2871
Life Insurance1-800-669-8477	VA NY Harbor Health Care.....1-212-686-7500
Debt Management1-800-827-0648	Health Eligibility Center 2957 Clairmont Rd. #200.....1-404-235-1257
Mammography Hotline1-888-492-7844	Atlanta GA 30329or 1-800-929-8387
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD)1-800-829-4833	
CHAMPVA.....1-800-733-8387	

Problem or Solution, I Want to Hear from You!

As your representative in Congress, it's important to me to ensure that federal agencies are appropriately responsive to your needs. If you've applied for a federal benefit and believe your application is not being processed properly, or if you are having any other problems with a federal agency, my district staff may be able to help. Please don't hesitate to call or write me or my staff to ask for assistance. If you'd like to visit with a staff member, it's always best to call first for an appointment.

Here's how to reach me.

I'm also always interested in any suggestions and recommendations you may have regarding legislation. Many of my best initiatives originate with ideas brought to me by constituents!

Manhattan
1651 Third Ave., Suite 311
New York, NY 10128
212/860-0606

Queens
28-11 Astoria Blvd.,
Astoria, NY 11102
718/932-1804

Washington, D.C
2331 Rayburn HOB,
Washington, D.C. 20515
202/225-7944



Get news by email! I've started an email newsletter to constituents who would be interested in receiving them. Please complete this form and mail it to my Manhattan office, or log on to <http://maloney.house.gov> to sign up.

Name Email.....

Address.....

Return to Congresswoman Maloney, 1651 Third Avenue, Suite 311, New York, NY 10128

By signing up you are authorizing me to send regular email updates to the email account you provide.

