



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

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Byrd Statement on Senate Passage of Military Construction/VA Appropriations Legislation

Washington, D.C... U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D.W.Va., today applauded the Senate's overwhelming passage of the Fiscal Year 2008 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, which offers substantial new investments in health care for America's veterans, including for the unique needs of our servicemen and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Chairman Byrd's Statement is below

The VA has consistently underestimated the resources necessary to meet the growing needs of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, resulting in dangerous budget shortfalls that have imperiled the availability of quality health care for all veterans.

This Congress will not allow history to repeat itself. This funding bill provides the resources needed to improve and strengthen health care for our brave veterans, and wisely directs key investments to areas in the greatest need.

Providing the funding necessary to ensure first-rate care is an important step towards rectifying the outrageous injustice that so many of our brave veterans have faced. I hope that President Bush will do the right thing and sign this bill into law.

I also want to thank Chairman Tim Johnson and Acting Chairman Jack Reed for their leadership in this vital effort.

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