



IRAQ *and* AFGHANISTAN
VETERANS *of* AMERICA

ACTION FUND

November 4, 2008

The Honorable David E. Price
2162 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3304

Dear Congressman Price,

IAVA Action's 2008 Congressional Report Card recognizes those lawmakers who refused to compromise on the most important issues facing Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. From passing a new GI Bill to increasing VA funding by over 10 billion dollars, the 110th Congress has made tremendous progress on behalf of America's newest generation of heroes.

In June 2008, the landmark Post-9/11 GI Bill was signed into law, ensuring an affordable education for all veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The new GI Bill was IAVA's number one priority for 2008, and it represents the single largest increase in veterans' education funding in 60 years. This legislation is an extraordinary achievement that will broaden the opportunities available to an entire generation of combat veterans, and, like the World War II GI Bill of Rights, will strengthen our national economy for decades to come.

The 110th Congress's second major achievement on behalf of veterans was fully funding the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). After years of inadequate budget allocations, veterans' hospitals were struggling to cope with the hundreds of thousands of new combat veterans seeking medical care. The budgets approved by Congress for 2007 and 2008 increased VA funding by over ten billion dollars, matching for the first time the budget recommendations made by leading veterans service organizations.

Congress also addressed a number of other key issues that affect the nation's newest veterans. Crucial legislation passed by this Congress increased benefits for disabled veterans, expanded suicide prevention efforts, and improved treatment for Traumatic Brain Injury.

Over the last two years you have demonstrated that you are a great friend to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families. IAVA Action is proud to list you on our "**A TEAM.**" We thank you for your leadership on these critical issues.

Sincerely,

Paul Rieckhoff
Iraq War Veteran
Founder and Executive Director
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America

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