



# OFFICE OF SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI

## FACT SHEET

### **THE SUPPLEMENTAL HAS MORE FUNDING FOR OUR TROOPS AND OUR VETERANS THAN THE PRESIDENT REQUESTED**

Today and tomorrow, the House will consider H.R. 1591, U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act – the FY 2007 Supplemental Appropriations bill. Below are highlights on how this bill provides more needed funding for our troops and our veterans than the President's request.

#### **Defense Health Care -- \$1.7 Billion More than President's Request**

The Supplemental includes a total appropriation of \$2.8 billion for Defense Health Care, which is \$1.7 billion above the President's request. The additional funding supports new initiatives to enhance medical services for active duty forces and mobilized personnel, and their family members. These initiatives include:

- \$450 million for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder/Counseling
- \$450 million for Traumatic Brain Injury care and research
- \$730 million to prevent health care fee increases for our troops
- \$20 million to address the problems at Walter Reed
- \$14.8 million for burn care

#### **Veterans' Health Care -- \$1.7 Billion More than President's Request**

The bill includes \$1.7 billion above the President's request for initiatives to address the health care needs of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and the backlog in maintaining VA health care facilities, including:

- \$550 million to address the backlog in maintaining VA health care facilities – intended to prevent the VA from experiencing a situation similar to that found at Walter Reed
- \$250 million for medical administration to ensure there are sufficient personnel to support the growing number of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and to maintain a high level of services for all veterans
- \$229 million for treating the growing number of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans
- \$100 million for contract mental health care – with this funding allowing the VA to contract with private mental health care providers to ensure that Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are seen in the most timely and least disruptive fashion, including members of the Guard and Reserve
- \$62 million to speed up the processing of claims of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan

#### **Addressing Readiness Crisis & Other Steps to Support Our Troops**

The bill also includes other additions above the President's request to support our troops, including:

- \$2.5 billion more to address the current readiness crisis of our stateside troops, including ensuring that they are better equipped and trained
- \$1.4 billion more for military housing allowances
- \$311 million more for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles for troops in Iraq
- \$222 million more for infrared countermeasures for Air Force aircraft to address the growing threat against U.S. air operations in Iraq and Afghanistan