



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

March 17, 2009

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

Thank you for your letter offering your congratulations and support as I begin my service as Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). I very much appreciate your taking the time to write and am honored to be leading an organization of such dedicated and competent people. Together, we will build on VA's past successes to ensure that Veterans continue to receive timely, accessible delivery of high-quality benefits and services.

I am responding to your letter regarding VA's implementation of P.L. 109-461, the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act; specifically the provision to authorize use of veterans' housing loans for the purpose of purchasing stock or membership in a cooperative housing corporation.

I understand the importance of this issue, and I have asked the Veterans Benefits Administration to prepare a complete and comprehensive response for my approval. You may expect a final reply by April 3, 2009.

Thank you for your continuing support of our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eric K. Shinseki". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric K. Shinseki