

April 1, 2009

Dear Senator:

As a cosponsor of S. 423, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act, I am writing on behalf of the 1.2 million member Disabled American Veterans (DAV) to urge you to support the amendment to be offered by Senator Inhofe to the budget resolution providing for advance appropriations for veterans health care.

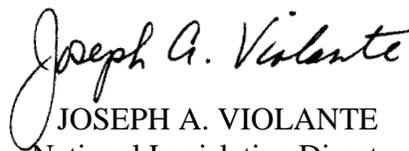
The Inhofe amendment will extend the same protection from a point of order against advance appropriations for veterans medical care as is already provided other agencies and programs that receive advance appropriations, such as the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. This amendment is fully consistent with and sets the stage for approval of S. 423 and ultimately enactment of advance appropriations for veterans health care.

This amendment will not increase the budget deficit by one dollar. In fact, by providing veterans health care with timely and predictable funding, it is likely that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) can more efficiently use the funding provided by Congress and save taxpayer dollars from being wasted through inefficiencies. As you may know, Congress and the President have approved VA's funding on time just 3 of the past 22 years, making clear that the system itself is in need of reform.

DAV, *The Independent Budget*, The Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform, The Military Coalition, the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) and most other veterans service organization have made advance appropriations for veterans health care our highest legislative priority for veterans this year.

We were grateful that you have supported advance appropriations for veterans medical care by cosponsoring S. 423, and we respectfully ask that you continue that support by voting for the Inhofe amendment that will help achieve this goal. If you have any questions about this amendment or advance appropriations for veterans health care, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,


JOSEPH A. VIOLANTE
National Legislative Director
Disabled American Veterans