

House Democrats Continue to Leave No Veteran Behind

"Veterans in this country deserve some answers. Why does the Republican leadership in Congress find billions of dollars of tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, but does not find enough money for the veterans who risked their lives for our nation? Why did the Bush Administration suddenly discover a shortfall, when Democrats have been talking about this for months? "

- Leader Pelosi



Last week, Veterans' Administration Secretary Jim Nicholson finally acknowledged that there is a significant shortfall in veterans' funding. Over the past two years, Democrats have stood shoulder to shoulder with veterans' service organizations calling for adequate funding for the VA. Time after time, Democrats have put forward proposals

to increase funding for our veterans. And time after time, Republicans have voted them down. Last night, House Democrats, led by Rep. Chet Edwards (D-TX), offered an amendment to provide \$1.5 billion for veterans' health care to cover the shortfall in the Republican budget, the same amount approved by the Senate. Unfortunately, the House voted along party lines to prevent the amendment from being considered. The House did pass a bill providing for \$975 million for the VA, but because it does not match the amount passed by the Senate and provided for by Rep. Edwards' amendment, many of our veterans will be spending the Fourth of July in VA medical facilities lacking adequate medical and nursing staff, closed operating rooms, and without the ability to replace basic medical equipment, such as hospital beds.

[Read a letter to the President signed by all House Democrats - Dear Mr. President, Funding for Veterans' Health Care Is Urgently Needed - Do It Before 4th of July.](#)

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Mr. President, Level With the American People

The President provided no specifics in his prime-time address on the war in Iraq. After 27 months of war, nearly 1,750 American soldiers have been killed, thousands more wounded, and more than \$200 billion of U.S. taxpayers' dollars have been spent. With this loss of life and limb, dollars and our reputation in the international community, the President owes the American people some answers. The Administration's open-ended commitment in Iraq is unfair to our men and women in uniform, is unfair to American taxpayers, and undermines America's future. House Democrats are asking the President to level with the American people and deliver a strategy for success.

[Read Leader Pelosi's statement.](#)