



BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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April 16, 2012

The Honorable Jeff Miller
Chairman House Veterans Affairs Committee.
United States Congress
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller,

The Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) is the only congressionally chartered veterans service organization exclusively dedicated to serving the needs of our nation's blinded veterans and their families for 67 years. BVA fully supports your effort with the introduction of "Protect VA Healthcare Act of 2012" (H.R. 3895), to protect the Department of Veterans Affairs funding from cuts in sequestration.

For the VA to provide high quality, cost effective medical care to our nation's veterans they must be assured the appropriations that have been projected by the models used and not be subjected to sudden cuts that would ultimately result in reductions in personnel and the ability of the system to provide services. Since 90% of the VHA budget is discretionary and used for direct veterans' health care any potential reductions from the deficit reduction act would leave the specialized services for disabled veterans especially at high risk. We would ask that the entire leadership in congress take a stand and support your legislation.

Chairman Miller we thank you for your strong leadership on H.R. 3895 and this important budget legislation for veterans' care. Your dedication and solid commitment to America's current and future veterans, is very much appreciated by the Blinded Veterans Association.

Sincerely,

Thomas Zampieri
Director Government Relations