

THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET

A Budget for Veterans by Veterans

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February 7, 2012

Honorable Jeff Miller
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

On behalf of the co-authors of *The Independent Budget*—AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars—we would like to offer our strong support for H.R. 3895, a bill which would ensure that all programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are protected from sequestration. Currently, the medical care programs managed by the VA face the possibility of up to a two percent reduction in funding due to a conflict in title 2, United States Code.

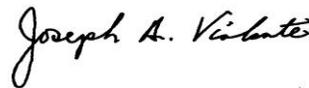
Most troubling to our organizations is the fact that when questioned by members of Congress on its position regarding this conflict in law, the VA did not unequivocally state that all of its programs are protected from potential cuts. This leaves the final decision on the impact of sequestration of VA health care funding up to the Office of Management and Budget, a thought that is extremely worrisome. We appreciate the fact that the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has reiterated its position that Congress intended for all VA programs to be exempted from sequestration. We believe that H.R. 3895 will ensure that the intent of Congress on this issue will no longer be in doubt. Moreover, it will ensure that veterans will not have to worry about whether or not critical services will be available in a timely manner as a result of devastating budget cuts.

Again, we would like to thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure that the health care and benefits of all veterans are not jeopardized by budget decisions.

Sincerely,



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Cc: Honorable Bob Filner, Ranking Minority Member

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