

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 2006

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Room H-218, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Obey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Room S- 128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Byrd
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Room S- 122, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Lewis & Cochran and Ranking Members Obey & Byrd:

As the conference committee begins to negotiate the final Defense Appropriations bill, we are writing to respectfully request your support for increased funding for the Defense and Veteran's Brain Injury Center (DVBIC).

The DVBIC's director has testified that traumatic brain injury has become the signature injury of the war on terrorism and requested \$19 million be appropriated in order to allow them to maintain their current level of commitment to servicemembers and their families. As you are aware, the Senate passed appropriations bill includes a total of \$19 M for DVBIC, \$12 M more than the current House mark. We request that the House agree to the Senate provision.

The work of the DVBIC is critical to our troops returning from combat. Their research estimates that 10% of the total force in Iraq and 20% of the infantry suffer concussions during their tours. Advances in helmet technology are allowing more troops to survive injuries than in previous conflicts and underscores the need for enhanced and expanded research and treatment in this area. Servicemembers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who suffer from traumatic brain injuries greatly benefit from the Center's advanced research, clinical studies, treatment and patient care. Restoring funding for the Center headquartered at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and its satellite centers in military and VA hospitals around the country, is vital to ensuring our military personnel receives the quality of care that they deserve.

We strongly urge you to bring the total funding for DVBIC to \$19 M in the final defense conference report. Many tragically injured soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines returning home from their missions in the Global War on Terror need and rely on the critical services provided by the Center.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H SMITH
Member of Congress



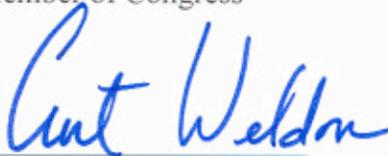
JOHN KLINE
Member of Congress



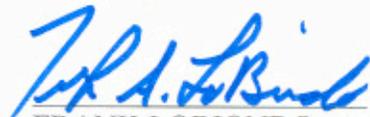
MARK FOLEY
Member of Congress



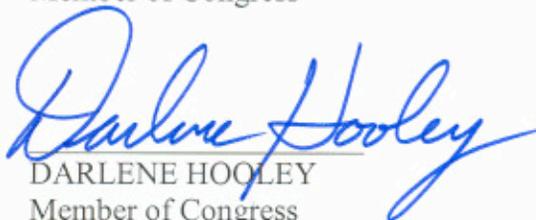
STEPHANIE HERSETH
Member of Congress



CURT WELDON
Member of Congress



FRANK LOBIONDO
Member of Congress



DARLENE HOOLEY
Member of Congress



CAROLYN B MALONEY
Member of Congress



COLLIN PETERSON
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HOWARD L BERMAN
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DALE E KILDEE
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GARY ACKERMAN
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BRAD MILLER
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JOHN SPRATT
Member of Congress



PETE STARK
Member of Congress