

**WESTERN
UNION**
WEST ROXBURY MA 02132**** EXTREMELY URGENT ****

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REP. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY,

VETERANS DON'T WANT TO SADDLE FUTURE GENERATIONS WITH MASSIVE FEDERAL DEBT. BUT THEY DO WANT TO BE TREATED FAIRLY. THAT INCLUDES CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS TO PUT AMERICA'S FINANCIAL HOUSE IN ORDER.

AS ONE OF MORE THAN 1.2 MILLION MEMBERS OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AND AUXILIARY, I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO OPPOSE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS THAT UNFAIRLY TARGET VETERANS' PROGRAMS FOR SPENDING CUTS:

- * REENACT COMPENSATION TERMINATION PROVISIONS TO INCOMPETENT VETERANS WITHOUT SURVIVORS WHEN THEIR ESTATE REACHES \$25,000.
- * ROUND DOWN FUTURE COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLA) FOR DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND SURVIVORS' BENEFITS AND REDUCE COLA BY ONE-HALF FOR OLD LAW DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION RECIPIENTS.
- * INCREASE AND MAKE PERMANENT PRESCRIPTION CO-PAYMENTS.
- * PERMANENTLY REDUCE THE G.I. BILL COLA BY ONE-HALF.

PARTICULARLY OFFENSIVE IS THE PROPOSAL TO DEPRIVE VETERANS OF COMPENSATION MERELY BECAUSE THEIR DISABILITY IS MENTAL. IT IS UNCONSCIONABLE TO VISIT THIS DISCRIMINATORY BURDEN UPON AN ALREADY DISADVANTAGED CLASS OF VETERANS.

THE COMMITTEE'S PLAN ALSO UNFAIRLY REDUCES COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR DISABILITY COMPENSATION PAID TO VETERANS AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION PAYMENTS TO THEIR WIDOWS AND SURVIVORS WHILE ALLOWING ALL OTHER FEDERAL BENEFICIARIES TO RECEIVE FULL COLAS. IF SOCIAL SECURITY IS OFF THE BUDGET-CUTTING TABLE BECAUSE BENEFICIARIES HAVE "PAID INTO THE SYSTEM," THEN SURELY VETERANS' PROGRAMS SHOULD BE TREATED NO LESS FAVORABLY BECAUSE VETERANS HAVE CONTRIBUTED THEIR FAIR SHARE IN BLOOD AND SACRIFICE IN DEFENSE OF THIS NATION'S SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR REPLY.


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