

JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
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Vets

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2109
February 16, 1995

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Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your profound concern over the possibility of cuts to veteran's programs and benefits, proposed means testing, and the imposition of taxes on veterans benefits. I understand your concern, particularly given the recent rhetoric of the Republican leadership in Congress.

While I strongly support balancing the federal budget and reducing the deficit, I do not believe that this should be accomplished on the backs of our nation's veterans. I have always been a supporter of maintaining the benefits that veterans rightly deserve and do not intend to change now. I agree with the notion that veterans benefits represent a sacred trust between the government and those who answered its call in time of crisis. I simply cannot follow the logic which would even consider weakening that trust.

Please know, as a disabled veteran, that as the debate over the federal budget intensifies that I will continue to work to protect veteran's programs.

Thank you again for your thoughtful letter. I look forward to hearing from you in the months ahead on veteran's issues and urge you to contact me at any time if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
Member of Congress

v-x/benefits

JJM:dc

January 21, 1995

HON.

Dear Representative Moakley:

As important as it is to put the country's fiscal house in order to prevent a long-term budgetary crisis, it would be inexcusable for our nation's leaders to sacrifice the rights and benefits that America's veterans have earned in service to their country while preserving billions of dollars in 'tax entitlements' for the wealthy.

Veterans and their families already have borne more than their fair share of cuts in the past several years and should no longer be expected to shoulder a disproportionate load in reducing the federal deficit.

Disability compensation payments are restitution for a grateful nation to compensate disabled veterans who may have lost a limb or have some other physical impairment or illness sustained in defense of their country.

I strongly oppose taxing disability compensation or other benefits simply because a veteran has other income. The very system of government that put brave men and women in harm's way should not punish them for going to work and earning a decent living for themselves and their families.

By concentrating on entitlements such as disability compensation and pensions for middle-income and elderly veterans while wealthy individuals and large corporations continue to benefit from tax loopholes, the commission is betraying its mandate.

Means testing and imposing taxes on veterans' benefits is asking entirely too much of a group of Americans who already have sacrificed so much of themselves for the good of the nation as a whole. That could mean cuts of up to 15 percent in compensation payments to disabled veterans or their survivors with a family income above \$40,000 a year. None of those proposals targets the billions of dollars in tax entitlements for reduction.

Such one-sided proposals are singularly unfair. Disabled veterans and their survivors must not be used to preserve thinly veiled tax entitlements enjoyed by international and foreign corporations, big businesses, and the wealthy.

Certainly, the entitlement of a veteran injured in the defense of his country deserves a higher priority than the vast array of tax entitlements (for businesses) and...certain wealthy individuals seeking to avoid their fair share of taxes.

Respectfully,

DEAR - CONGRESSMAN - JOE

WILL YOU PLEASE
HELP US VETERANS
NOW WHEN WE
NEED YOU.

██████████ WWII, USN
██████████
Braintree, MA 02184