

Statement of Paul Tsongas, M.C.

April 29, 1976

RE: Veterans' programs

Despite Presidential opposition, the House yesterday approved a \$1.8 billion budget resolution increase for veterans' benefits and compensation. \$1.2 billion of this package constitutes a cost of living increase in veterans' pensions and G.I. benefits. \$610 million of this outlay is designed to extend education benefits two years beyond the present ten year limitation.

I enthusiastically supported both of these measures. I believe it is crucial that veterans' benefits programs keep pace with the increased cost of living, especially since many retired veterans are largely dependent on their pensions.

As a cosponsor of legislation to remove the 10 year delimiting period for veterans' education benefits, I consider the two year funding extension a significant step towards a more reasonable education policy for veterans.