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February 17, 2009

Barbara West
Member of the Executive Committee
Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research
5480 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 214
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Dear Barbara:

Thank you for your letter of February 6, 2009 providing funding recommendations for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical and Prosthetics Research and VA Research Facilities for the FY 2010 Budget.

I share your views of VA being a leader in research and also applaud VA's unique ability to translate research directly to improvements in clinical care. In addition, I understand your concerns about the rising biomedical research inflation and the on-going need to promote research.

As Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs (HVAC), one of my top priorities is to ensure that VA receives funding that is timely, predictable, and sufficient. This is why I will continue the fight to ensure that VA has the resources it needs to provide the best care for our nation's veterans. As I work to prepare HVAC's Views and Estimates on the FY 2010 Budget, I will be certain to consider your recommendations in developing an appropriate funding level for VA research and research facilities.

Again, thank you for your letter and for your work in supporting VA research. Please feel free to reach out to me again with any further concerns or suggestions.

Sincerely,



BOB FILNER
Chairman

CW/ kp