

December 9, 2008

The Honorable Bob Filner, Chairman
House Veterans' Affairs Committee
333 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6375

Dear Chairman Filner:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter requesting we provide our top five priorities for the coming legislative session.

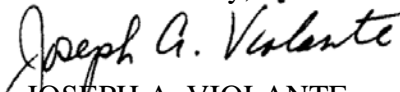
I look forward to working with you and the Committee staff during the 111th Congress to pass important legislation to improve the lives of America's service-connected disabled veterans and their families. The Disabled American Veterans' (DAV's) top legislative priorities are as follows:

1. Reform the federal budget process to provide the sufficient, timely, and predictable funding necessary to sustain the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system;
2. Improving the benefits adjudication process and reducing the claims backlog
3. Improving diagnosis and treatment for mild to moderate traumatic brain injury, the most common injury among Iraq/Afghanistan veterans and for post traumatic stress disorder;
4. Providing comprehensive physical and mental health care to women veterans;
5. Providing federal support and assistance for family caregivers of severely disabled veterans, including access to mental health care services and financial support.

I hope that we can count on you, as Chairman, to support these important initiatives, and shepherd them through the Committee and onto the full House for consideration.

Congratulations on your reelection.

Sincerely,



JOSEPH A. VIOLANTE
National Legislative Director

JAV:lmb