

Full Mandatory Funding of VA Healthcare

An Advisory Referendum
passed by the
Cook County Board of
Commissioners

What is an Advisory Referendum?

- A question for voters to answer
- On the ballot February 5, 2008
- Presidential Primary
- For ALL of Cook County
- Advises U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C.
- Passed by the Board on July 10, 2007

What will it say?

- “Shall the federal government be required to adopt mandatory full funding of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of ensuring that all eligible honorably discharged U.S. veterans receive quality and accessible healthcare and related services?”

Don't we have Mandatory Funding?

- No!
- VA Healthcare funding is currently “discretionary.”
- That means that it is at the “discretion” or judgment of Congress and the President.
- It is debated every year.

What would Mandatory Funding do?

- It would end the yearly debate and mean the funding was automatic.
- We would not have to lobby for what we need.
- It would be what Congress calls an “Entitlement.”
- VA healthcare would be properly funded by a formula.

What formula?

- The number of veterans served by the VA healthcare system
X
- The amount it costs to care for a veteran
X
- A yearly adjustment for rises in healthcare costs
=
- Proper VA healthcare funding

What else?

- It would require a one-time increase to bring the VA healthcare system funding up to where it ought to be.

Eligibility

- Congress should mandate that the VA healthcare system serve every honorably discharged veteran without further cost.
 - No co-pays
 - No categories
 - No one excluded
- We already paid for our healthcare

Why is this important?

- Veterans are being cut off from healthcare
 - Priority 8: cannot enroll for VA healthcare
 - Co-pays for medication
 - Co-pays for hospital visits
- Non-access to healthcare contributes to
 - Rising cost of healthcare
 - Homelessness
 - Poverty & Joblessness

Vote ***YES*** for Mandatory Funding!

- VA healthcare for ***EVERY*** eligible veteran
- End of “Means test”
- End of bureaucratic nightmares for veterans getting healthcare
- End of having to lobby Congress for what it promised
- Center piece to a national healthcare plan

What ***YOU*** can do

- Volunteer with the Coalition of Veterans Organizations (CVO)
- Get your organization involved. Educate your membership.
- Donate money and/or materials for the campaign (*tax-deductible*)
- Have a CVO speaker at your group or at your home

Time is of the Essence!

- We are working to get this in ***EVERY*** ballot in the State of Illinois
- 101 Illinois counties contacted
- CVO is working on this effort
- Must be on County ballots by December 3, 2007

Contact Us

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