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March 5, 2007

Honorable Bob Filner
Chairman
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing to formally request that the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs immediately conduct a full Committee oversight hearing on the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) seamless transition of military personnel from DoD to VA health care systems. Specifically, I would ask that the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing currently scheduled for Thursday at 3:30 p.m. be expanded to a full Committee hearing.

In the 109th Congress, this Committee held more than 10 hearings and conducted at least fifteen site visits focusing on the seamless transition of servicemembers from the military into the VA. The recent revelations at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center highlight the importance of these issues, including fully interoperable electronic health records, military separation physicals that can also function as VA disability physicals, and a disability rating process that provides consistent ratings. I believe that these issues are of interest to all Members and should be reviewed at the full committee level.

This issue is of critical importance to the young men and women of our Armed Services who have unselfishly served and sacrificed for this great nation. I am sure you will agree that it deserves the immediate attention of the full force of this Committee.

I look forward to working with you and your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Steve Buyer
Ranking Republican Member