



Major Veterans Accomplishments 110th and 111th Congress

During the 111th and 110th Congress, there have been substantial investments made to help our troops and our veterans. The Congress has focused specifically on three areas: 1.) **Health Care** – ensuring that our active duty troops and our veterans have access to the best quality health care; 2.) **Education** – providing veterans with the educational opportunities that they deserve; and 3.) **Economy** – ensuring that the veterans that have served our country are able to find employment, own a home, start a business and have all of the other tools necessary to succeed in the 21st Century economy

Several of the key pieces of legislation passed during the 110th Congress and the beginning of the 111th Congress include:

110th Congress

- **GI Bill for the 21st Century**
 - Increases education benefits for those who have served at least 3 months on active duty since 9/11.
 - Links educational benefits to amount of active duty served since 9/11
 - Covers up to the cost of the most expensive in-state public school and matches voluntary contributions for more expensive schools.
 - Provides veterans more time to use educational benefit. The GI Bill for the 21st Century provides veterans up to 15 years – instead of the current 10 – after they leave active duty to use their education assistance entitlement.

- **Veterans Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act**

Provides for:

 - Coverage of substance use disorders and mental health care
 - Mental health research
 - Assistance for families of veterans
 - Assistance for homeless veterans

- **Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act**
 - Provides for increased compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain disabled veterans



111th Congress

- **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

- provides incentives for businesses to hire recently discharged, unemployed veterans
- expands housing assistance for disabled veterans
- addresses deficiencies at aging military hospitals and VA hospitals
- improves claims and benefits processing
- invests in housing for troops and families
- provides funding for the construction of operations and training facilities to support National Guard Units
- provides assistance to military homeowners
- funds warrior transition complexes to provide services to wounded warriors and their families

- **The Service Members Home Ownership Tax Act**

- Makes changes to several Recovery Act provisions in how they apply to service members. The legislation would:
 - Ensure that certain payments under the Defense Housing Assistance Program (HAP) to assist military personnel selling a home that has declined in value are exempt from tax.
 - Ensure service members will not have to repay the first-time home buyer credit if they are ordered to deploy to a different location and, as a result, forced to sell their home within three years of buying it.
 - Extend for one year, to December 1, 2010, the deadline for taking advantage the first-time homebuyer credit for qualifying service members, so that certain service members stationed overseas can take advantage of the credit when they return

- **Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act**

- Authorizes Congress to approve investments in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical care one year in advance, and requires the President to request those funds one year in advance.
- This will ensure reliable and timely funding to support the delivery of high quality medical care for our veterans -- providing time for the VA to plan how to deliver the best care to an increasing number of veterans with increasingly complex medical conditions.
- This is critical to meeting our obligation to our veterans, making sure that any delays in Congress never hinder veterans' medical care.