



PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA NEWS

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CONTACT: Kaitlyn O'Hara
303-597-0038 or 800-833-9400

MSCPVA Applauds Enactment of Advanced Appropriation for the VA

Aurora, Colorado – Mountain States Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (MSCPVA) welcomes the enactment of legislation that has been 20 years in the making. On October 22nd, President Obama signed into law H.R. 1016, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009. This historic legislation makes funding for the health-care programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) an advance appropriation, guaranteeing sufficient, timely and predictable funding for medical services and research.

“The passage of this important piece of legislation ensures that all our veterans will continue to receive the medical services they need without interruption. We applaud the Administration’s work on this needed action.”

Mark Shepherd, Sr., Executive Director

Paralyzed Veterans of America, joined by eight other veterans service organizations comprising the Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform, developed this proposal to ensure the VA receives its funding on time. The need for this critical reform has been bolstered over the years by the fact that in 20 of the past 24 years, the VA has not received its funding prior to the start of the new fiscal year.

Earlier this month, the House of Representatives and the Senate both passed amendments to H.R. 1016 that reflect compromised legislation, allowing for the bill to be sent to the President. In addition to signing H.R. 1016 into law, President Obama supported advanced appropriations for the VA through his budget submission released last spring.

“Paralyzed Veterans, along with many other veterans service organizations, have fought hard for sufficient, timely and predictable funding of VA health care,” said Paralyzed Veterans’ National President Gene A. Crayton. “This now means that VA will get its funding on time, and our veterans will get the health care they have earned in a timely manner.

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The Mountain States Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, a veterans service organization, was established in 1955 and serves paralyzed veterans in Colorado, Montana, Wyoming and Utah, all of whom have catastrophic paralysis caused by spinal cord injury or disease. A Public Service Announcement made for PVA is available from the chapter. To learn more about MSCPVA, visit its web site at www.mscpva.org.