

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 15, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi and Minority Leader McConnell,

As you know, H.R. 2055, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on June 14, 2011. Subsequently, on July 20, 2012, the United States Senate passed their version of this important funding measure. To date, a conference to settle the minor differences between the chambers has not been established. I urge you to move this process forward and pass a conference report for H.R. 2055 so that this legislation that is vitally important to America's veterans and their families is approved.

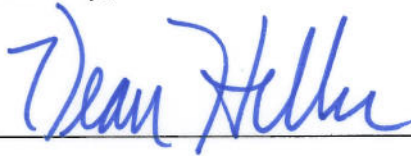
H.R. 2055 passed each chamber of Congress by overwhelming bipartisan margins because Members of Congress agree that we must support our military and their families by providing the benefits and medical care that our veterans have earned in their service. Our nation's veterans deserve to know that the benefits and health care programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will be fully funded and available regardless of the ongoing deficit and budget negotiations currently being debated in Washington D.C.

Solving the differences between the two legislative bodies and submitting this important legislation to the President for approval should not jeopardize funding for our veterans. That is why I urge you to move immediately to a conference between the chambers of Congress for the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Our veterans have served this nation with distinction and honor. The very freedoms we enjoy today are due in part to their efforts in defending this nation. Let us stand with veterans and send them a message that Congress will not allow Washington D.C. politics to stand in the way of veterans funding by finishing our work on this important matter.

I look forward to passing a conference report on H.R. 2055 in an expeditious manner in both chambers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dean Heller". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

DEAN HELLER
US Senator