



News Release From . . .

Congressman Rodney Alexander

5th Congressional District of Louisiana

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ALEXANDER TAKES LEAD ON LEGISLATION TO SECURE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL VETERANS *BILL AIMS TO LIFT FREEZE ON ENROLLMENT FOR 'PRIORITY 8' VETERANS*

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, has taken the lead Republican role in introducing legislation that would repeal a Department of Veterans Affairs policy that restricts "Priority 8" veterans from enrolling to receive health care benefits. "Priority 8" is the VA classification for veterans who do not receive compensation for service-related injuries and whose incomes exceed the national VA threshold of \$26,902.

Alexander said this legislation, titled the Honor Our Commitment to Veterans, will ensure that all veterans, regardless of their incomes, receive the benefits they have earned.

"Our nation owes a great deal to all of the men and women who have served in the military, and placing restrictions on which veterans will receive health care benefits is simply unfair," Alexander said.

"With the rising costs of private insurance policies, treatments, and prescription medicines, this policy is not only sending the wrong message to veterans, but it is also cutting benefits from veterans who truly need them. I support policies that ensure our veterans' priorities are met and also assure them that their commitment to our nation is appreciated."

The legislation was introduced Friday, January 12, 2007, by both Alexander and U.S. Rep. Steven Rothman, D-New Jersey, who drafted the bill.

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