

An Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

INCREASE FUNDING FOR VETERANS

Offered by Representative Bradley

- At the appropriate place in the Chairman's Mark, increase the levels of budget authority and outlays in Function 700 (Veterans Benefits and Services) by the following amounts:
 - For Fiscal Year 2005: \$0 in Budget Authority; and \$0 in Outlays
 - For Fiscal Year 2006: \$229,000,000 in Budget Authority; and \$91,000,000 in Outlays
 - For Fiscal Year 2007: \$229,000,000 in Budget Authority; and \$185,000,000 in Outlays
 - For Fiscal Year 2008: \$229,000,000 in Budget Authority; and \$211,000,000 in Outlays
 - For Fiscal Year 2009: \$229,000,000 in Budget Authority; and \$221,000,000 in Outlays
 - For Fiscal Year 2010: \$229,000,000 in Budget Authority; and \$227,000,000 in Outlays

- At the appropriate place in the Chairman's Mark, decrease the levels of budget authority and outlays in Function 150 (International Affairs) by the following amounts:
 - For Fiscal Year 2005: \$0 in Budget Authority; and \$0 in Outlays
 - For Fiscal Year 2006: \$229,000,000 in Budget Authority; and \$91,000,000 in Outlays
 - For Fiscal Year 2007: \$229,000,000 in Budget Authority; and \$185,000,000 in Outlays
 - For Fiscal Year 2008: \$229,000,000 in Budget Authority; and \$211,000,000 in Outlays
 - For Fiscal Year 2009: \$229,000,000 in Budget Authority; and \$221,000,000 in Outlays
 - For Fiscal Year 2010: \$229,000,000 in Budget Authority; and \$227,000,000 in Outlays

SUMMARY OF THE BRADLEY VETERANS AFFAIRS AMENDMENT

Summary

- This amendment will increase new discretionary budget authority for Veterans by \$229 million in fiscal year 2006 and by \$1.15 billion over the next 5 years.
- The amendment provides for an increase in the Department of Veterans Affairs' medical care funding. This increase could allow for greater resources to be devoted to medical services, medical administration, or medical facilities.

Rationale

This amendment would increase discretionary spending for Function 700, Veterans Benefits and Services, and decrease the allocation for Function 150, International Affairs, by a like amount. The expectation is that in fiscal year 2006 an additional \$229 million will be available for VA medical care.

- As shown in chart 69, over the last several years the Republican Congress has acknowledged the debt the Nation owes its veterans by providing large increases in the funds allocated to veterans benefits and services. Since 1999, budget authority for veterans medical care has risen from \$17.8 billion to almost \$30 billion this year.
- As a result of legislation passed in 1996 the number of veterans eligible for medical care has nearly doubled. As shown in chart 73, the number of veterans eligible for medical care has increase from 2.5 million in 1995 to 4.8 million today.
- As scored by OMB, the President' budget recommended \$33.4 billion, including collections, for VA discretionary programs for fiscal year 2006. This included \$30.7 billion for VA medical care. This represents a \$739 million, 2.5 percent, increase for VA medical care. The House Committee on Veterans Affairs recommended an additional increase of \$307 million for veterans medical care.
- As rescored by CBO, the total discretionary funding, including collections, for VA programs in the President's budget is \$31.7 billion. The Chairman's Mark increases Function 700 (Veterans Benefits and Services) funding above the President's request. This amendment would add an additional \$229 million in budget authority to this discretionary total.