

The United States government has an absolute obligation to provide benefits and services, including health care, to the men and women who are disabled in the service of their country. I am committed to fulfilling America's promise to our veterans.

With my strong support, Congress approved the largest single increase in veterans' funding in the 77-year history of the Veterans Administration. I am actively engaged in resolving the backlog of claims that is slowing delivery of care for many veterans, and I am intimately concerned with addressing the needs of veterans in my district. Through these efforts I succeeded in bringing a VA medical clinic to Evanston.

The Recovery Act recently passed by Congress provides incentives for businesses to hire recently discharged unemployed veterans, expands housing assistance for disabled veterans, provides \$1 billion to address deficiencies at aging VA hospitals, and improves claims and benefits processing. This bill also contains provisions increasing investment in housing for troops and families and funding transition facilities that provide critical services to wounded warriors and their families.

I am dedicated to provide the most efficient and effective care to our increasing number of veterans with increasingly complex medical conditions. My chief objective is to make sure men and women returning from combat receive the care they need to fully heal and have the best quality of life possible.

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