

April 24, 2008

Delbert Schmidt
1512 Sunset lane
New Holstein, WI 53061

Senator Russell Feingold
1640 Main Street
Green Bay, WI 53061

Dear Senator Feingold:

This letter is in regards to the various proposals outlined in the Bush administration's federal budget requests for the VA budget for fiscal 2009.

The veterans are against the proposal of taking Congress out of the equation in medical care funding by eliminating the medical administration account and transferring funds to the medical services and medical facilities. Congress had previously informed the White House that any transfer of funds within medical care –especially involving the medical administration account must be approved by Congress. Veterans need representation, they want Congress informed about their needs in order to receive fair treatment.

The proposals to target non-service connected veterans in priority groups 7 and 8 with increasing fees in enrollment and prescription drugs would cause severe financial problems for the veterans. The proposals would assess an annual enrollment fee on a sliding scale, and depending upon the veteran's annual income the fee could range from \$250 to \$750.

The pharmacy co-payment would change from \$8 to \$15 for a 30-day supply. If these proposals are implemented they will cause hardship and difficulties for the veterans, especially the young veterans coming to the VA for their health care needs. This would force veterans out of the VA health care system.

We urge you to vote against these proposals, and would appreciate hearing from you regarding this matter.

The veterans appreciate the work you have done in recent years for veteran benefits.

Sincerely,

Delbert Schmidt