

Congressman Childers Supports Veterans' Benefits Increases, Reauthorization

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Washington, DC - Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) joined a bipartisan majority of his colleagues yesterday in supporting several important pieces of legislation affecting veterans' benefits. This legislation includes a veterans' compensation cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), an expansion of emergency treatment eligibility, and the reauthorization of important homeless veterans reintegration programs, which all passed in the House by a voice vote.

"Our veterans don't just deserve these important benefits, they've earned them," said Congressman Childers. "This legislation will help veterans in North Mississippi and throughout the country receive affordable disability compensation and emergency care, as well as job training and counseling during these difficult economic times."

Below is a summary of the legislation:

- The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2009 (H.R. 1513) - Increases, as of December 1, 2009, the rates of veterans' disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled adult children, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children.
- H.R. 1377 - Expands veteran eligibility for reimbursement by the VA for emergency treatment received in a non-VA facility.
- The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (H.R. 1171) - Reauthorizes, through FY 2014, the VA homeless veterans reintegration programs, which include job training, counseling, and placement services to expedite the reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force.

There are approximately 7,500 veterans currently receiving benefits from the Veterans Administration in Mississippi's First Congressional District, along with more than 4,000 military retirees.

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