



## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Funding Highlights:

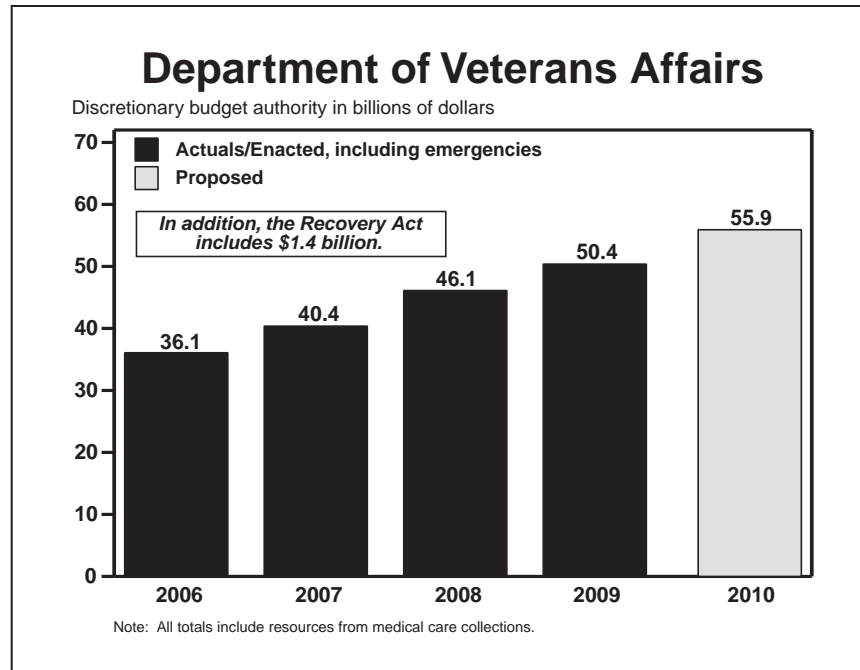
- Increases funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs by \$25 billion above baseline over the next five years.
- Dramatically increases funding for veterans health care.
- Expands eligibility for veterans health care to over 500,000 veterans by 2013.
- Enhances outreach and services related to mental health care and cognitive injuries, including post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, with a focus on access for veterans in rural areas.
- Invests in better technology to deliver services and benefits to veterans with the quality and efficiency they deserve.
- Provides greater benefits to veterans who are medically retired from service.
- Combats homelessness by safeguarding vulnerable veterans.
- Facilitates timely implementation of the comprehensive education benefits that veterans earn through their dedicated military service.

**Increases Funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) by \$25 Billion Above Baseline Over the Next Five Years.** The President's Budget takes the first step toward increasing funding for VA by \$25 billion over the next five years in order to honor our Nation's veterans and expand the services they receive.

**Dramatically Increases Funding for VA Health Care.** This increase will provide adequate resources to give 5.5 million veteran patients timely and high quality care. This funding also enables VA to create Centers of Excellence and provides additional veteran-oriented specialty care in areas including prosthetics, vision and spinal cord injury, aging, and women's health.

**Restores Health Care Eligibility for Modest-Income Veterans.** For the first time since January 2003, the President's Budget expands eligibility for VA health care to non-disabled veterans earning modest incomes. This expansion will bring over 500,000 eligible veterans into the VA health care system by 2013 while maintaining high quality and timely care for the lower-income and disabled veterans who currently rely on VA medical care.

**Enhances Outreach and Services Related to Mental Health Care and Cognitive Injuries with a Focus on Access for Veterans in Rural Areas.** Conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury



present challenges in caring for veterans of current conflicts. The President's Budget expands the mental health screening and treatment services offered by VA and focuses on reaching veterans in rural areas. VA will increase the number of Vet Centers and mobile health clinics to expand access to mental health screening and treatment in rural areas. In addition, new funding will help veterans and their families stay informed of these resources and encourage them to pursue needed care.

**Invests in Better Technology to Deliver Services and Benefits to Veterans with the Quality and Efficiency They Deserve.** To transform VA into a 21st Century organization, the President's Budget invests in information technology that directly benefits veterans in the areas of both health care and benefits. Through improved electronic medical records, VA will more efficiently retrieve active duty health records from the Department of Defense and enable all VA care sites to access the records of veterans needing care. VA will also invest in the development of rules-based electronic processes to increase accuracy, consistency, and timeliness in veterans' receipt of benefits.

**Provides Greater Benefits for Veterans Who Are Medically Retired from Service.**

For the first time, highly disabled veterans who are medically retired from service will be eligible for concurrent receipt of disability benefits from VA in addition to Department of Defense retirement benefits.

**Combats Homelessness by Safeguarding Vulnerable Veterans.**

The President's Budget expands VA's current services to homeless veterans through a collaborative pilot program with non-profit organizations. This pilot will help maintain stable housing for veterans who are at risk of falling into homelessness while helping VA to continue providing them with supportive services.

**Facilitates Timely Implementation of the Comprehensive Education Benefits Veterans Earn Through Their Dedicated Service.**

The Budget provides the resources for effective implementation of the post-9/11 GI Bill—providing unprecedented levels of educational support to the men and women who have served our country through active military duty.