



HEALTH AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

MAR 7 2007

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U S House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6015

Dear Mr. Chairman

This letter is an interim report to a request by the House Appropriations Committee in House Report 109-464, accompanying the Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for Fiscal Year 2007, to integrate mental health services into daily activities of Service members. The Committee proposed a \$25,000,000 increase in funding for this purpose, which has not yet been appropriated under Continuing Resolution funding.

Health Affairs mental health staff are developing a notional strategic plan for Human Systems Optimization and Maintenance to meet the requirements to integrate pre-clinical mental health services into operational environments in coordination with Personnel and Readiness leadership. In June 2007, we will provide a report on the use of any funds appropriated for this purpose and continuing requirements to sustain the program.

Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Winkenwerder, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD

cc
The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member