

Mahoney Speaks on Need to Improve Veterans Healthcare

Congressman Tim Mahoney

Floor Statement, June 20, 2007

On Funding for Veterans' Healthcare

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Mr. Speaker, it's an unfortunate fact of war. Young American soldiers are not only losing their lives on the battlefield, but many soldiers who survived traumatic combat injuries are returning home with equally serious psychological wounds. Unfortunately, the Veterans Administration has not been given by this Administration, the personnel and funding necessary to address this problem.

A recent series of Washington Post stories followed the stories of several soldiers returning from service in Iraq who suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

The articles paint a harrowing picture of the challenges that face these veterans. Suicidal patients left in waiting rooms, psychiatric wards with terrible odors, and a disconcerting lack of therapy or treatment.

Mr. Speaker, last week this House took action to help our military personnel who are suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. We passed the largest increase in funding for veterans health care in the V-A's history. This includes treatment for PTSD. It is clear that these funds are desperately needed to provide better care for our men and women returning from serving our nation.

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