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SUSAN YOUNG

URGENT

FAX Cover Sheet

DATE: OCT 7, 1992

Time: 12:20 P.M.

PACIFIC
TIME

TO: JAMES BAKER
Chief of Staff

FROM: Sue Young
Veterans Park Preserve

FAX Number: ~~202-456-2461~~ (202-456-1111)
202-456-2883

Message: Pls call myself at 805-684-9827, or
Leo Burke at 415-431-2400, or Ed Munis 707-579-3725.
Leo is with the American Legion & Ed with the VFW.
We need the President's help!

of Pages C+2

URGENT



The VPP serves Veterans and their families as well as the community by protecting, enhancing, and maintaining the open space of the West Los Angeles Veterans grounds in honor of the memory and sacrifice of all who fought for our country.

October 7, 1992

President George Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: HR 5679: H U D, Veterans Affairs and Independent
Agencies Appropriations Bill

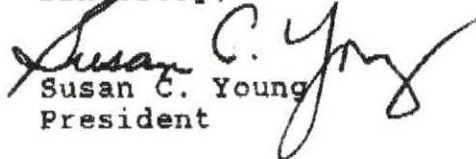
Dear President Bush,

The Veterans Park Preserve representing a broad range of veterans' organization leaders, community leaders, West Los Angeles homeowners associations, architects, churches, synagogues and schools, URGE you NOT TO SIGN HR 5679.

Should you sign this Bill our "Thousand Points of Light" program to raise 20 million dollars through the private sector, to prevent further deterioration of the Veterans Administration property in West Los Angeles, will be for naught.

Please don't sign this bill until the language on the BICYCLE VELOWAY is removed. It is truly an outrage that a self-interest group be allowed to do this to land belonging to the American Soldier.

Sincerely,


Susan C. Young
President

cc: James Baker
American Legion, VFW, DAV, MOPH, CAL VET

VA nurses, problems have resulted from the compression of pay grades; denial of automatic cost-of-living adjustments; and an excessive amount of discretion at the hospital director level. Further, the General Accounting Office recently found that there may be deficiencies in VA's survey methods, resulting in inaccurate salary rates. The Committee urges VA to take necessary steps to correct deficiencies in this pay system, and to report to the Committee within 90 days as to the changes it plans to implement, and a timetable for action. The report should also address, on a hospital-by-hospital basis, how the recruitment of nurses has been improved due to the new pay system.

The Committee is pleased the Department has begun to augment its optometry program, as well as increase participation in the education and training of residents. However, the Committee is concerned with the relatively low participation rate on dean's committees. While optometry is part of VA's Affiliated Residency Division, along with medical and dental schools which have full participation, only 2 of the 17 optometry schools have appointments to dean's committees. The Committee urges VA to increase optometry's representation on affiliated dean's committees.

The Committee is aware of the need for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment at the East Orange VAMC. Indeed, New Jersey veterans have had to wait 8 to 10 weeks for MRI services. It is the Committee's understanding that MRI workloads at East Orange have grown to the point that they meet VA's criteria for an in-house MRI of 1,500 exams per year. In light of this, the Committee urges the Department to site this much needed equipment at the East Orange facility.

The Committee has been informed that the VA Secretary has decided to proceed administratively with the establishment of the Jennings, LA, outpatient clinic in fiscal year 1993. The proposal for this community-based outpatient clinic has been reviewed by the VA and meets the strategic planning criteria for the establishment of such a clinic. The Committee also notes that in order to establish a presence in fiscal year 1993, the VA will make contractual arrangements for outpatient services with local health care providers.

The Committee notes that citizen groups in west Los Angeles have been planning to build a commuter bicycle route called the Veloway. The VA is directed to work with the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission, the Citizens for the West L.A. Veloway, and other agencies to plan a bicycle route across the west Los Angeles VAMC. It is intended that the route utilize existing roads, where feasible, but not interfere with patient care areas.

The Committee is aware of the need for medical imaging equipment, including a large-aperture magnetic resonance imaging and spectroscopy system at the Research Imaging Center of the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. The Committee requests VA to determine the need and priority for, and assess the benefit to the San Antonio veterans community, of siting such equipment at the research imaging center, and to report to the Committee with its findings.

The Committee remains concerned about the lack of alternative arrangements for the care of veterans in view of the closing of the surgical wing at the Grand Island, NE, VA Medical Center. The

Committee requests act detailing: (1) the Hospital for providing of what types of training for less urgent and include information the Committee is to native services are derstanding of the n

The Committee is expanding this program. The Committee is significant veteran medical centers. This program for veterans in medical care, especially diagnosis.

The Committee is at the Fargo VAMC for necessary equipment.

The Committee is prohibiting the expenditure of the medical research account in program.

The Committee is \$9,440,000,000 for program.

MSD1

Appropriations, 1992 ...
Budget estimate, 1993 ...
House allowance ...
Committee recommendation

The "Medical and the conduct of the V. Rehabilitation Research I problems in the field for vehicles, sensory, thetic research" accommodation Research Program a tiveness and economy the accessibility of services.

or

The Committee has thetic research, an in A reduction of \$10.6 been made, without ;

The Committee is \$2,000,000 for prosthetics

H.R. 5679 (8/2/92)
Senate Rpt. #102-356