

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Harry E. Mitchell today praised the Senate's passage of a Veterans' Affairs appropriations bill that will invest \$43 billion into veterans' care, calling it an important step forward for our nation's veterans.

The increased investment in veterans' care will allow the Department of Veterans' Affairs to hire more doctors, reduce waiting times for doctors' appointments and provide more assistance to veterans suffering from traumatic brain injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

"We are long overdue for an investment in veterans' health care," said Mitchell, who serves as the chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

"At a time of war and incredible need, the last Congress slashed veterans' funding and we're seeing the effects of that today. I'm glad the Senate joined together in a bipartisan way – just as the House did – to pass legislation that will help the VA deliver the health care that our men and women in uniform have earned and deserve," said Mitchell.

The Senate passed the measure by a 92 to 1 vote. In June, [Mitchell and the House passed its appropriations bill](#), which would invest \$43.2 billion. The measure passed by a 409 to 2 vote.

National veterans' groups have praised Congress' investment in veterans' care. Organizations such as AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America and Veterans of Foreign Wars called the House bill "a significant, much-needed investment in health care and the benefits delivery system for our nation's sick and disabled veterans," according to AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America and Veterans of Foreign Wars. [Source: Disabled American Veterans]