

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today urged the President to reconsider his veto threat and sign into law a House-approved 3.5 percent pay increase for troops. [Source: [Military.com](#), May 12, 2007]

Yesterday the White House issued a veto threat of H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act, which passed the House today, explaining the Administration “strongly opposes” the 3.5 percent pay raise for troops. [Source: [The White House](#), May 16, 2007]

“Our nation has asked a great deal of our men and women in uniform, and I believe they have earned a pay raise,” said Mitchell, who serves as chairman of the Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. “Frankly, I’m surprised the President doesn’t agree. I hope he reconsiders his position and signs this bill into law.”

The National Defense Authorization Act also includes an amendment Mitchell proposed that will help returning service members transfer their Department of Defense-held medical records to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

The Mitchell Amendment, which earned House approval yesterday, will require the Defense Department to provide every member of the armed forces a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act authorization form, the voluntary signing of which will legally obligate the Defense Department to transfer that service member’s medical records to the VA upon his or her discharge.

“If a soldier wants his or her medical information to be made available to a VA doctor, that information should be transferred,” said Mitchell.