



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE VETERANS HOMES
“Caring for America’s Heroes”

April 5, 2007

The Honorable Chet Edwards, Chairman
Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
H-143, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for the opportunity you provided to testify before your Subcommittee on March 20, 2007, concerning the role that State Homes play in providing long term care to sick and disabled veterans.

Pursuant to your request to determine the number of veterans on waiting lists for admission to State Homes, the National Association of State Veterans Homes requested a flash report from our member homes of their current waiting lists. We received responses from roughly two-thirds of the homes, representing 18,456 authorized beds out of the nationwide total of 28,667 beds. According to these responses, the total number of veterans and other eligible persons awaiting admission is approximately 6,277. Assuming the same level of waiting is occurring at homes that have not responded, the total estimated number of veterans and other eligibles awaiting admission to State Veterans Homes is 9,750.

Many of the State Veterans Homes that reported substantial waiting lists also indicated that they had knowledge of additional numbers of veterans who chose not to put themselves on waiting lists because of the long waiting time involved (prospectively, years in some cases). We believe this to be a suppressed or dampened demand, but it is difficult to quantify numerically, although it is clearly significant.

It is important to note that the types and levels of care provided at each facility vary, as well as the State-law eligibility requirements and qualifications for those seeking admissions. At present, there are approximately 22,600 skilled nursing care beds authorized for State Veterans Homes, including specialized Alzheimer’s, dementia and other care units. Also, the States operate slightly over 6,000 domiciliary care beds in State Veterans Homes.

I am furnishing a copy of this report to Dr. James Burris of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to whom the original question was directed. If I might provide additional information or be of further assistance to you or the Subcommittee please contact me.

Respectfully,

Robert L. Shaw, Legislative Chairman
National Association of State Veterans Homes

Enclosure

cc: Dr. James Burris