

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

December 18, 2009

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2009

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

Henry A. Waxman, M.C.
District Office

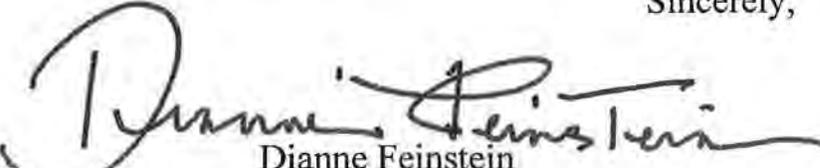
We write to request a meeting with you to discuss the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs campus and opportunities to convert three buildings on the property into long-term therapeutic supportive housing for homeless Veterans.

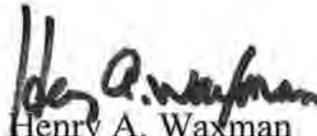
We were encouraged by your November announcement of a comprehensive plan to end homelessness among Veterans and your long-standing commitment to addressing this heartbreaking problem. Along with Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, we have worked for over two years to convert three unused and underutilized buildings on the West Los Angeles VA campus into supportive homeless housing. Although the Department is aware of and actively involved with this issue, efforts to convert the buildings have failed repeatedly.

The recently-passed fiscal year 2010 Military Construction-VA appropriations bill included a Johnson-Feinstein provision to provide \$50 million to convert VA buildings to housing with supportive services for homeless veterans. We are hopeful that this funding, in concert with the VA/HUD partnership you announced in November and an aggressive and creative plan by the VA, can break the impasse and bring this project to a conclusion. We would appreciate your personal involvement and leadership in seeing that this is a top priority for addressing Veteran homelessness in the Los Angeles area.

Our staffs will contact your office to schedule a meeting for the new year. We hope this letter gives you a suitable amount of time to prepare and devise promising solutions for these three buildings, including putting to use a significant portion of the \$50 million included in the fiscal year 2010 appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration and warm wishes for a safe holiday season.

Sincerely,


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator


Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress