

AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 1998
APPROPRIATIONS

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

AN AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 1998 APPROPRIATIONS RE-
QUESTS FOR THE COMPENSATION PROGRAM OF THE DEPART-
MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, PURSUANT TO 31 U.S.C. 1107



SEPTEMBER 9, 1997.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and
ordered to be printed

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THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, June 25, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

SIR: I ask Congress to consider an amendment to the FY 1998 appropriations request for the Compensation program of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This amendment would not affect the proposed discretionary budget totals.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

Enclosure.

Estimate No. 12
105th Congress, 1st Session



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

June 25, 1997

The President

The White House

Submitted for your consideration is an amendment to your FY 1998 appropriations request for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The proposal would fund mandatory payments of veterans benefits during FY 1998. The proposed discretionary budget totals would not be affected by this amendment.

The proposed amendment would provide \$198 million to fund additional costs of VA's Compensation program. The requested funds are associated with an increased number of Compensation beneficiaries as well as increased average payments to beneficiaries.

I have carefully reviewed this proposal and am satisfied that it is necessary at this time. Therefore, I join the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in recommending that it be transmitted to Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Franklin D. Raines".

Franklin D. Raines
Director

Enclosure

Agency: DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Bureau: VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION
Heading: Compensation
FY 1998 Budget
Appendix Page: 899
FY 1998
Pending Request: \$16,437,688,000
Proposed Amendment: \$197,954,000
Revised Request: \$16,635,642,000

This amendment would increase the pending Compensation appropriations request by \$198 million to fund mandatory payments of veterans benefits during FY 1998. The increase is associated with technical reestimates in entitlements based on higher-than-expected caseload and average cost.