



Motto: "If I cannot speak good of my comrade, I will not speak ill of him."

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

NATIONAL SERVICE and LEGISLATIVE HEADQUARTERS
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William J Lockwood
508 S Tollgate Rd
Bel Air, MD 21014

April 3, 1991

Dear William:

As you may be aware, Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland chairs the Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which handles the funding for all Department of Veterans Affairs programs.

Recently, the House of Representatives approved an emergency supplemental that called for emergency funding of \$46 million for the VA health-care system. Senator Mikulski disagreed with the House passed amount, cutting it nearly in half to \$25 million. Unfortunately, the Senate funding recommendation prevailed in conference.

We understand that Senator Mikulski based her decision to reduce the VA health-care supplemental funding bill largely on VA Secretary Derwinski's rosy assessment of the funding levels necessary to provide quality and timely health care to America's veterans. We believe that Senator Mikulski should not rely solely on the VA Secretary's assessment -- especially in view of the fact that he recently described America's veterans as "grippers" when testifying before the House Budget Committee earlier this month.

Senator Mikulski need only look at some facts. The Albuquerque, New Mexico; Cleveland, Ohio; Long Beach, California; and Poplar Bluff, Missouri VA Medical Centers are prime examples of where underfunding contributed to major health-care problems and, in some cases, cost the lives of veterans who sought VA medical care.

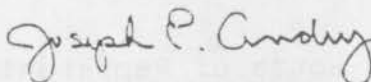
Additionally, I am sure that Senator Mikulski shares our outrage about recent revelations that poor quality health care may have contributed to the unnecessary deaths of at least 43 veterans at the North Chicago VA Medical Center over a nine month period. It is painfully clear to DAV and to the families of those veterans who died needlessly that quality health care

is being jeopardized as a result of chronic underfunding of the VA health-care system.

In the coming months, Senator Mikulski's Subcommittee will be allocating funds for the Department of Veterans Affairs for all of next year. It is vitally important that you write and telephone her office urging that she follow the recommendations of the Independent Budget prepared by the DAV and three other veterans' service organizations. The IB provides a realistic assessment of the funding levels necessary to meet the true needs of America's sick and disabled veterans.

Please write and telephone Senator Mikulski's office today (address and telephone numbers are listed below). Your efforts can make the difference.

Sincerely,



JOSEPH E. ANDRY
National Commander

JEA:py

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski
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320 Hart Senate Office Building
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Copy to Tom

RECEIVED APR 10 1991

TO: Helen

FROM: Kevin

I thought this would interest you.

I took the Mason-Dixon poll of January 18-20 (816 registered voters, margin of error 3.5%). I used the number of interviews in the poll by region and projected for each region the percentage of the vote that I thought you were likely to get. The bottom line comes out 52-48 Mikulski.

I think an argument can be made that my projections are conservative in terms of the vote that you would get. I'm sure you will see some areas where you feel you can do better than I projected. I'd be interested in your thoughts.

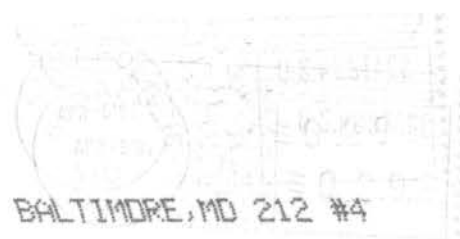
	Interviews	Projected Bentley vote
East. Shore\So.MD	95	58%
Balt. County	124	52%
Balt. City	118	36%
Central MD	75	58%
A.A. County	91	53%
P.G.	120	37%
Mont. Co.	133	45%
Western MD	60	60%

This breakdown would produce Bentley support from 393 of the interviewees or 48.2%



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