JOSEPH K. KNOLLENBERG
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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
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TRANSPORTATION, HUD, AND RELATED AGENCIES, RANKING MEMBER
STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS

www.knollenberg.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2209

You need to update your data base. Todd is 29 and has never been in the military. He has an older brother currently serving in the Air Force.

June 5, 2008

Mr. Todd Afflerbaugh
22800 LISA CT
FARMINGTON HILLS, Michigan 48335-3846

Dear Mr. Afflerbaugh:

Last week, the House of Representatives voted to increase disabled veterans benefits for next year. The legislation will ensure veterans do not lose their purchasing power. However, the question is: **why aren't these benefits *automatically* increased each year?**

Individuals receiving Social Security benefits or Medicare benefits do not need to wait for Congress to approve an increase to their benefits each year, so why should our veterans? I am pleased that Congress has provided a cost-of-living adjustment to disabled veterans in recent years; however, I question why this increase is not made permanent.

I strongly believe our veterans, and especially our disabled veterans, should not have to wait for Congress to approve an increase in their benefits. That is why I introduced H.R. 402, the *Veterans Disability Compensation Automatic COLA Act*. **My legislation would increase veterans' disability benefits *automatically* each year.** It is unfair to our veterans to allow their benefits to hang in the balance until Congress approves legislation. H.R. 402 would take Congress out of the equation and guarantee a cost-of-living adjustment for our disabled veterans each and every year.

As a veteran myself, I take these issues personally. I am fighting hard to ensure our veterans have the benefits they deserve and do not need to wait for Congress to act. To learn more about my fight to protect our veterans please visit my website, **Knollenberg.house.gov/veterans**.

Sincerely,

Joe Knollenberg
Member of Congress

P.S. If you need assistance in working with the federal government please contact my District Office at, (248) 851-1366.

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May 30, 2008

Mr. Todd Afflerbaugh
22800 Lisa Court
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48335-3846

Dear Todd:

After retiring from the military, many veterans don't know or understand the benefits that are provided to them by the federal government. Because of this, **last week I voted for a bill that will ensure veterans better understand the benefits that are available to them**.

The men and women serving to protect our freedom deserve the same level of commitment from the government to their well-being upon leaving the military. Comprehensive programs like those passed in the "GI Bill" are well known to both veterans and many average citizens. However, the government also has smaller programs to ensure veterans receive housing benefits, adequate health care, and even equal opportunity employment benefits.

As a Member of Congress who represents over 45,000 veterans, and as a veteran myself, I strive to ensure each and every veteran in Oakland County knows about the programs available to them through the Department of Veterans Affairs. H.R. 3681, the *Veterans' Benefits Awareness Act of 2008*, which the House passed with my strong support, will allow the Department to better educate veterans on services available to them.

I intend to continue to fight to make sure every veteran has the opportunities they deserve once leaving the military. To learn more about my work with veterans both in Michigan and in Washington, D.C. please visit my website, **Knollenberg.house.gov/veterans**.

Sincerely,

Joe Knollenberg
Member of Congress

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