

Oct. 27, 2011

*Washington, D.C.* – Today, Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) wrote to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to express concern that a critical program is running far behind schedule. Congressman McNerney wrote to make sure that the provisions mandated by the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act are met. Upon hearing news of the delay, Congressman McNerney led the bipartisan effort to hold the VA accountable.

“Given the fact that the troops in Iraq will all be returning by the end of the year, it is more critical than ever that we make sure the services they need are in place. I am concerned that the VA is not acting quickly enough to ensure that these men and women will have everything they need when they return home,” said Rep. McNerney.

Specifically, this law requires the VA to develop a program on readjustment and mental health care for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families. Additionally, the law allows the VA to contract with community medical providers to implement the program and provides training to local clinicians so they can better work with the veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

“As we prepare for the weeks and months ahead we will see a growing number of returning veterans, and we must take strides to help our veterans have a smooth transition back into our communities. They have fought honorably to protect us, and we must now do everything we can to give them a dignified welcome home,” said Rep. McNerney.