

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Requesting Additional Funds for the Department of Veterans Affairs

June 28, 2006

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider expeditiously the enclosed fully offset FY 2006 request for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to address the security of personal information of veterans and service personnel.

I am requesting these additional resources for VA to cover the increased costs to the VA information technology account in FY 2006 as a result of providing credit monitoring and fraud watch services for

veterans and service members impacted by a security breach that occurred on May 3, 2006. The total cost of this effort, estimated to be \$160.5 million in FY 2006, is fully offset.

The details of these proposals are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan

June 29, 2006

President Bush. Good morning, Laura and I are welcome—are proud to welcome and honored to welcome our friend Prime Minister Koizumi back to the White House. Japan and the United States have built a strong alliance and a close friendship. Decades ago, our two fathers looked across the Pacific and saw adversaries, uncertainty, and war. Today, their sons look across that same ocean and see friends and opportunity and peace.

The friendship between our two nations is based on common values. These values include democracy, free enterprise, and a deep and abiding respect for human rights. These values have created a better life for both our peoples, a firm alliance between our two nations, and a common approach to our engagement with the world.

These values are under attack by terrorist networks that bring death and destruction to all who oppose their hateful ideology, so the United States and Japan are working

together to defend our shared values and win the war on terror.

Japanese naval vessels have refueled hundreds of coalition ships as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Japan is now the third largest donor nation for reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. In Iraq, Japanese Self-Defense Forces have helped improve the lives of citizens in a key Iraqi Province that will soon return to Iraqi control. And Japan continues to provide critical airlift support to coalition forces in Iraq. The people of Japan can be proud of the contribution their Self-Defense Forces have made in the war on terror, and Americans are proud to serve alongside such courageous allies.

Japan and the United States are cooperating to address other threats to our security. Our two nations are working together through the six-party talks, insisting that North Korea meet its pledge to abandon all nuclear weapons and its existing nuclear programs. Japan and the United States are