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Rep. Waxman Introduces Bill to Stop Sale and Commercialization of the West LA VA

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Today, Congressman Waxman introduced “The West Los Angeles Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Preservation Act of 2007,” which would prohibit any sale or commercial development of the West LA VA property. In 1988, Senator Cranston placed development restrictions on 109 acres of the West LA VA. This legislation would apply those restrictions to the entire 388-acre campus.

“I have fought efforts to sell or otherwise commercially develop the West LA VA property for years,” said Rep. Waxman. “This legislation assures permanent protection of the land. Today, soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan are returning home to face shortages in services. We owe our veterans an iron-clad guarantee that their needs are our priority.”

The legislation would also require the VA to fulfill a 1998 congressional mandate to complete a comprehensive master plan for the property so veterans’ future needs can be properly addressed.

The West LA VA is the nation’s largest VA medical center. According to the California Department of Veterans Affairs, more veterans live within fifty miles of the West Los Angeles VA Center than in 42 other states.