

Department of Veterans Affairs

United States Senate

Senator Tom Coburn, MD

May 5, 2011

Via U.S. Mail and Email

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary
United States Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

The Department of Veterans Affairs administers a number of important programs and services to Americans who served in the Armed Forces. These programs include, but are not limited to: (1) Veterans Compensation for Service-Connected Disability; (2) Veterans Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for Service-Connected Death; (3) Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Veterans; (4) Medal of Honor Pension; (5) Automobiles and Adaptive Equipment for Certain Disabled Veterans and Members of the Armed Forces; (6) Clothing Allowance; (7) Burial Expenses Allowance for Veterans; (8) Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance; (9) Post-Vietnam Era Veteran's Educational Assistance; (10) All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance/Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty; (11) Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance; (12) Specially Adapted Housing for Disabled Veterans; (13) Veterans Housing – Guaranteed and Insured Loans; (14) Veterans Housing – Direct Loans for Certain Disabled Veterans; (15) Veterans Housing – Manufactured Home Loans; (16) Native American Veteran Direct Loan Program; (17) Home Improvements and Structural Alteration Grants; (18) Monthly Allowance for Children of Vietnam Veterans Born with Spina Bifida; and (19) Vocational Training and Rehabilitation for Vietnam Veterans' Children with Spina Bifida or Other Covered Birth Defects.

I am interested in learning more about the individuals that receive funds and benefits from these programs. For the programs listed above, please provide the following information for all individuals that received any payment from these programs during Fiscal Years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010, who also reported income of \$1,000,000 or greater through any agency measurement of income (such as Adjusted Gross Income): (1) name of individual; (2) total reported income for the Fiscal Year in which the payment was made; (3) name of each program the individual received benefits through; (4) amount of benefits received from each program; and (5) total amount of all program benefits received during each Fiscal Year. This information should be produced in an electronic usable format, such as Microsoft Excel.

Please provide the above information by May 19, 2011. If you have any questions, including the format in which the information should be produced, please contact:

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Coburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tom Coburn, M.D.
United States Senator



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON
June 24, 2011

The Honorable Tom Coburn, M.D.
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

Thank you for your letter requesting information about Veterans, who report incomes of \$1 million or greater, receiving funds and services through programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) determines eligibility for the benefit programs listed in your letter. It does not, however, collect income information from Veterans or other beneficiaries if income is not a factor in determining eligibility for the benefit. VBA's benefit programs for Veterans with disabilities which were incurred in or aggravated by their military service (e.g., compensation, automobile allowance and adaptive equipment, specially adapted housing grants, clothing allowance, dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors, etc.), are not income-based benefits. Income information is only obtained from those Veterans, who are determined by VA to be unemployable as a result of their service-connected disabilities and, therefore, eligible for a higher level of disability compensation. VBA does not have information in its systems on any Veterans or survivors, with incomes of \$1 million or more, receiving VA compensation or related benefits.

VBA's education and vocational rehabilitation programs are also not income-based programs. Under VBA's home loan guaranty program, VA guarantees a portion of loans made by private-sector lending institutions to protect the lender against loss if the Veteran-borrower fails to repay the loan; however, VBA does not maintain the requested income information in its systems.

Income information is obtained for VA's needs-based pension programs. Pension benefits are paid to wartime Veterans with limited income that are either permanently and totally disabled or at least age 65. Death pension is a needs-based benefit paid to eligible dependents of deceased wartime Veterans. The income limits for entitlement to VA pension benefits are determined annually and are tied to the Federal poverty level, far below the \$1 million figure cited in your letter.

Page 2.

The Honorable Tom Coburn, M.D.

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) collects income information from certain Veterans to determine their eligibility for health care benefits. Like VBA, VHA does not collect income information from Veterans, if income is not a factor in determining eligibility for a benefit. VHA identified 496 Veterans, who self-reported income of \$1 million or more during the period 2007 to 2010. The enclosure provides information on 75 of these Veterans who receive disability compensation from VA.

I hope this explanation assists you in understanding VA's benefit programs. Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

Sincerely,



Eric K. Shinseki

Enclosure

Information in Response to Inquiry from the Honorable Tom Coburn, M.D.

#	BENEFIT	GROSS AWARD	EOD 1	RAD_1	EOD 2	RAD 2	EOD 3	RAD_3	INCOME YEAR
1	COMPENSATION	6,819	08/07/1971	08/06/1973					2007
2	COMPENSATION	2,823	09/01/1965	08/31/1967					2008
3	COMPENSATION	1,835	06/12/1962	06/10/1966					2009
4	COMPENSATION	1,739	06/09/1965	08/31/1991					2010
5	COMPENSATION	1,333	11/19/1952	11/18/1954					2009
6	COMPENSATION	1,333	12/04/1967	10/17/1970					2007
7	COMPENSATION	1,333	01/17/1986	06/30/2006					2008
8	COMPENSATION	1,333	05/06/2002	02/11/2003	09/13/1999	02/25/2000	10/12/2003	12/12/2004	2007
9	COMPENSATION	1,064	04/11/1966	01/19/1970					2007
10	COMPENSATION	1,064	05/10/1951	02/10/1953					2008
11	COMPENSATION	974	07/03/1969	05/01/1971					2009
12	COMPENSATION	941	12/17/1964	09/30/1966					2008
13	COMPENSATION	866	02/20/1970	02/19/1973					2008
14	COMPENSATION	866	08/18/2003	08/17/2007					2007
15	COMPENSATION	845	09/22/1966	04/30/1969	06/23/1975	06/15/1978			2008
16	COMPENSATION	845	03/23/1973	03/31/1993					2010
17	COMPENSATION	845	07/08/1969	05/28/1971					2009
18	COMPENSATION	770	06/01/2001	07/09/2006					2009
19	COMPENSATION	770	04/28/1989	04/30/2009					2010
20	COMPENSATION	770	10/27/1942	06/20/1946					2008
21	COMPENSATION	770	09/08/1960	09/05/1962					2008
22	COMPENSATION	740	03/29/1982	07/01/1982	05/15/2004	10/12/2005			2010
23	COMPENSATION	697	07/26/1974	07/21/1978	05/13/1984	08/01/1993			2008
24	COMPENSATION	644	01/21/1998	01/20/2001	10/17/2005	05/11/2008	08/01/1986	07/31/1990	2007
25	COMPENSATION	637	05/29/1995	04/30/2006	08/27/1979	07/31/1991			2010
26	COMPENSATION	601	09/25/1967	09/22/1969					2008
27	COMPENSATION	541	04/01/1968	10/01/1969					2008
28	COMPENSATION	541	05/18/1964	08/23/1967					2009
29	COMPENSATION	541	01/29/1968	10/21/1969					2009
30	COMPENSATION	541	01/12/1954	01/11/1956					2010
31	COMPENSATION	533	07/05/2001	07/04/2009					2008
32	COMPENSATION	517	01/29/1962	05/28/1965					2007
33	COMPENSATION	475	12/14/1995	09/30/2007					2007
34	COMPENSATION	421	02/14/1968	12/28/1970					2007
35	COMPENSATION	421	05/23/1973	05/31/1993					2009
36	COMPENSATION	421	06/29/1988	06/30/2008					2007
37	COMPENSATION	376	07/30/1969	01/20/1972	10/25/1977	07/31/1999	01/22/1972	10/27/1977	2009
38	COMPENSATION	339	08/12/1969	06/30/1981	03/20/1964	08/11/1969			2008
39	COMPENSATION	243	12/17/1973	11/03/1978					2009
40	COMPENSATION	243	09/14/1966	09/02/1968					2009
41	COMPENSATION	243	11/23/1965	11/12/1967					2008
42	COMPENSATION	243	10/08/2004	01/21/2006	05/22/1985	06/01/1994			2009
43	COMPENSATION	243	02/20/1970	02/01/1972					2008
44	COMPENSATION	243	08/11/1966	08/01/1968					2008
45	COMPENSATION	243	01/11/1973	03/29/1974					2009
46	COMPENSATION	243	09/30/1999	09/29/2005					2009
47	COMPENSATION	243	01/29/1951	01/28/1954					2009
48	COMPENSATION	243	06/27/1963	12/13/1963					2008
49	COMPENSATION	243	06/04/1984	04/28/1988	01/20/1989	06/02/1992			2008
50	COMPENSATION	243	02/27/1967	02/26/1971					2009
51	COMPENSATION	243	06/06/1973	07/31/2000					2008
52	COMPENSATION	243	01/25/1961	08/31/1987					2008
53	COMPENSATION	243	06/24/1968	03/05/1971	10/27/1961	07/26/1967			2007
54	COMPENSATION	243	03/07/1984	03/31/2004					2008
55	COMPENSATION	243	05/30/2004	04/11/2005	07/06/1970	04/20/1973	08/27/1975	12/31/1986	2008

Information in Response to Inquiry from the Honorable Tom Coburn, M.D.

#	BENEFIT	GROSS AWARD	EOD 1	RAD_1	EOD 2	RAD 2	EOD 3	RAD_3	INCOME YEAR
56	COMPENSATION	243	02/23/1963	03/31/1983					2009
57	COMPENSATION	243	08/24/1966	08/22/1969					2007
58	COMPENSATION	123	01/16/1963	07/15/1963					2008
59	COMPENSATION	123	09/06/1943	11/02/1945					2008
60	COMPENSATION	123	05/16/1983	10/10/1987					2008
61	COMPENSATION	123	04/07/1945	12/10/1946					2008
62	COMPENSATION	123	06/28/1975	06/20/1978					2009
63	COMPENSATION	123	10/13/1952	10/12/1954					2007
64	COMPENSATION	123	09/20/1968	06/22/1971					2008
65	COMPENSATION	123	09/29/1976	08/18/1980					2009
66	COMPENSATION	123	09/17/1974	09/16/1978					2009
67	COMPENSATION	123	10/01/2005	08/12/2008	08/01/1990	10/26/2003	07/14/1989	11/16/1989	2009
68	COMPENSATION	123	10/23/1944	03/14/1947					2008
69	COMPENSATION	123	02/04/1944	03/07/1946	03/08/1946	11/26/1947			2009
70	COMPENSATION	123	01/12/1970	01/05/1972					2009
71	COMPENSATION	123	12/18/1974	08/31/1977	12/18/1953				2008
72	COMPENSATION	123	06/11/1973	05/31/1975	06/11/1970	06/10/1973			2007
73	COMPENSATION	123	01/11/1967	12/19/1968					2008
74	COMPENSATION	123	08/24/1977	08/21/1981	09/24/1974	08/23/1977			2009
75	COMPENSATION	123	01/07/1991	01/31/2011					2010