

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT,
GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

United States Senate

Senator Tom Coburn, MD

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
AND THE LAW

October 15, 2009

Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell,

I am requesting that I be consulted before the Senate enters into any unanimous consent agreements regarding S.801, the Caregiver and Veterans Health Services Act of 2009. I appreciate you protecting my rights on this legislation.

I have one major concern with this legislation.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that if the bill was implemented, it would cost taxpayers \$3.2 billion in new spending over the next five years. This legislation does not include reductions in any government programs that are wasteful, duplicative, or obsolete in order to pay for the new provisions. I do not object to the substance of the underlying legislation in S. 801. However, I oppose increasing the debt on our children and grandchildren, currently approaching \$12 trillion, in order to pay for new federal programs and activities. I believe that there are many programs of lower priority in our federal government which could be eliminated in order to pay for this legislation and support our veterans disabled from war and those caregivers who sacrifice to care for them.

Again, thank you for protecting my rights on this legislation.

Sincerely,



Tom. A. Coburn, M.D.
U.S. Senator