The Honorable Ike Skelton  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  20515-2504  

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling $259 million (M) in FY 2007 and $486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of $259M, but provided an additional $241M for a total of $500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores $379M of the $486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

We believe we operate a high-quality health care system, and continually strive to improve our performance. Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System. Similar letters are being sent to the Chairmen and Ranking Minority Members of the other Congressional Defense Committees.

Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:  
The Honorable Duncan Hunter  
Ranking Member
Dear Madam Chairwoman:

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:
The Honorable John M. McHugh
Ranking Member

PS Hope we can discuss developing real-time incentives for each doctor seeing more patients & for concurrence cases if we can do that seen at military facilities we’ll be more efficient.
The Honorable Carl Levin  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-2202  

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc: The Honorable John McCain  
Ranking Member
The Honorable Ben Nelson  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Personnel  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-2705  

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to reporting requests contained in Senate Report 109-292, which requests a detailed plan for the military treatment facilities' (MTFs) absorption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and FY 2008 efficiency wedges.

In recognition of declining workload accomplished by MTFs, cumulative efficiencies were assumed in the Military Department medical budgets totaling $259 million (M) in FY 2007 and $486.3M in FY 2008. The FY 2007 efficiency wedge was fully restored by Congress via Public Law 110-28, Title III: Additional Defense, International Affairs, and Homeland Security Provisions. This not only restored the assumed efficiency savings of $259M, but provided an additional $241M for a total of $500M. The FY 2008 efficiency wedge was partially restored by Congress via Public Law 110-116, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008. This legislation restores $379M of the $486.3M FY 2008 efficiency wedge. MTFs are encouraged to earn back the balance of FY 2008 assumed efficiencies by increasing workload or achieving the efficiencies by reducing costs.

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:
The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham  
Ranking Member
The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-4801

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:  
The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member
The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1102

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:
The Honorable Ted Stevens
Ranking Member
The Honorable David R. Obey  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4907

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:  
The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member
The Honorable John P. Murtha  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515–3812  

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cc:
The Honorable C. W. Bill Young  
Ranking Member