

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 27, 2006

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

It has been more than one month since the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disclosed the theft of a laptop containing the personal information of 26.5 million veterans, including 2.2 million active duty military personnel. Since that time, numerous hearings have been held in an attempt to better grasp the circumstances surrounding the theft, but little action has been taken to safeguard the personal information of millions of brave men and women in uniform who have served our nation.

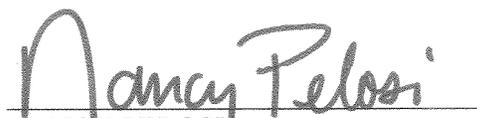
We write to urge you to bring the Comprehensive Veterans' Data Protection and Identity Theft Prevention Act (H.R. 5588), sponsored by Congressman John Salazar and more than 100 House Democrats, to the floor of the House of Representatives this week to protect these individuals from identity theft. This comprehensive legislation would protect veterans from identity theft and other harm, with a year of free credit monitoring, an additional free credit report in the second and third years, one year free fraud alert, and a free credit security freeze. It would also create an Ombudsman for Data Security at the VA charged with assisting veterans who are the victims of a data breach and/or identity theft.

Mr. Speaker, time is of the essence as we approach the July 4th recess. The personal information of millions of veterans is at risk and the Department of Veterans Affairs and Congress have failed to act in a comprehensive manner to protect them. We urge you to bring H.R. 5588 to the floor at the earliest opportunity this week.

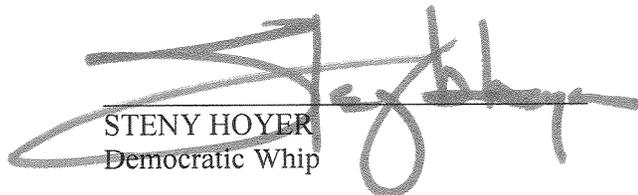
Sincerely,



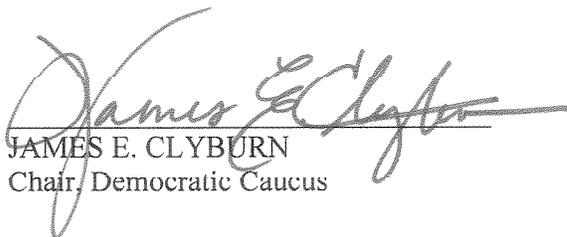
JOHN SALAZAR
Member of Congress



NANCY PELOSI
Democratic Leader



STENY HOYER
Democratic Whip



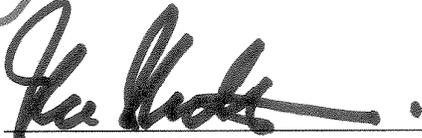
JAMES E. CLYBURN
Chair, Democratic Caucus



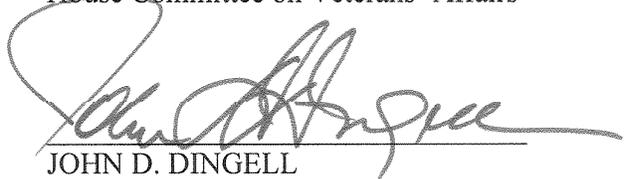
JOHN B. LARSON
Vice Chair, Democratic Caucus



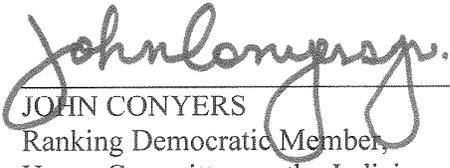
LANE EVANS
Ranking Democratic Member,
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs



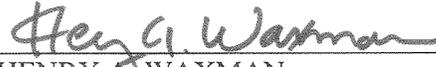
IKE SKELTON
Ranking Democratic Member,
House Armed Services Committee



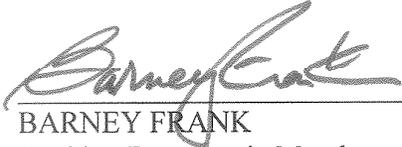
JOHN D. DINGELL
Ranking Democratic Member,
House Committee on Energy and Commerce



JOHN CONYERS
Ranking Democratic Member,
House Committee on the Judiciary



HENRY A. WAXMAN
Ranking Democratic Member,
House Committee on Government Reform



BARNEY FRANK
Ranking Democratic Member,
House Committee on Financial Services