THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON

January 31, 2008

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Enzi:

This is in reply to the letter from you and fellow Senators regarding a possible increase in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Beneficiary Travel Program mileage reimbursement rate.

As you wrote in your letter and as I previously testified during my confirmation hearing, the 11 cents a mile rate is an inadequate reimbursement for travel. Therefore, effective February 1, 2008, VA is raising its mileage reimbursement rate to 28.5 cents a mile. This much needed increase will assist in defraying the costs incurred by veterans who travel significant distances for VA care.

A similar letter has been sent to the cosigners of your letter. I thank you and your colleagues for your leadership and attention to this issue and look forward to working with you this next year on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

Sincerely yours,

James B. Peake, M.D.