

WITHDRAWAL FOR A REQUEST FOR FY 2006 BUDGET  
AMENDMENTS

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COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF  
MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,  
THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDENT

TRANSMITTING

WITHDRAWAL OF THE REQUEST FOR A FY 2006 FULLY OFFSET  
PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE INFORMA-  
TION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS ACCOUNT WITHIN THE DEPART-  
MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



JULY 18, 2006.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered  
to be printed

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,  
*Washington, DC, July 18, 2006.*

Hon. J. Dennis Hastert,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On June 28, 2006, the President asked the Congress to consider a fully offset FY 2006 request for \$160.5 million of additional funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to address the security of personally identifiable information of veterans and military service personnel.

On May 3, 2006, a VA laptop and hard drive were stolen containing confidential information on personal records of certain veterans and service members. To mitigate the risk of the inappropriate use of this information, this request would have funded credit monitoring services for personnel impacted by this theft and security breach.

Since the transmittal of the funding package, the stolen laptop and hard drive have been recovered and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) forensic examination of the equipment has been completed. The FBI has a high degree of confidence—based on the results of the forensic tests and other information gathered during the investigation—that the sensitive data files were not accessed or compromised.

On the basis of the FBI's analysis, the Administration has concluded that credit monitoring services and the associated funding will no longer be necessary. Therefore, on behalf of the President, I am withdrawing this funding request and associated offset proposals from further Congressional consideration.

Sincerely,

ROB PORTMAN.

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