

President Barack Obama  
White House  
Washington DC

Feb. 10, 2009

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your willingness to listen to the plight of America's veterans, many of whom have willingly served our country and then have been disposed like a BIC pen when they developed emotional disorders as a result of their service.

I understand that Montana's senators have been meeting this month with the National Guard Bureau and with representatives of the military services to adopt a national model of the Montana model, the package that included increased assessment for PTSD and the quick response readiness teams that Matt Kuntz told you about last August in Billings.

And I understand that there may be universal agreement within the next week or so on the same sorts of reform that you espoused in Billings.

I encourage you to adopt these reforms as an excellent first step toward making our veterans whole. I encourage you not to stop there, but to push the VA toward providing more effective – including alternative – treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). And I encourage you to demand better testing for traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Many in your administration may not understand the essential reforms that Montana has started; please encourage them to read my book, *Faces of Combat*, to know what needs to be done nationally. Many Americans may not understand the essential reforms that Montana has started; please encourage them, as well, to read this book to know what you want to do nationally.

If there's a way that I can help in your fight to help America's veterans, please don't hesitate to invite me into the fray. I'd relish the opportunity to serve.

Cheers,

Eric Newhouse  
Author, *Faces of Combat*