

**July 12, 2010**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) today praised the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) decision to simplify the claims process for veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This will make it easier for veterans to obtain the support and health care that they need.

**“There are literally hundreds of thousands of American veterans who are suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder today,” Congressman Altmire said. “This new policy will streamline the VA’s claims process so that our veterans can get the care that they need more quickly. We owe it to our veterans to ensure that nothing prevents them from receiving the best possible medical care.”**

Under the VA’s old rules, non-combat veterans had to submit extensive evidence to prove that they had actually experienced a trauma resulting in PTSD. The VA’s new policy eliminates this time-consuming requirement. Now, a VA psychiatrist or psychologist will be able to confirm that a veteran is suffering from service-connected PTSD as long as veterans’ description of their experiences and symptoms support a diagnosis of PTSD and are consistent with their service records.