

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
14TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

2331 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3214
(202) 225-7944

COMMITTEES:
FINANCIAL SERVICES

OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3214

DISTRICT OFFICES:
 1651 THIRD AVENUE
SUITE 311
NEW YORK, NY 10128
(212) 860-0606

28-11 ASTORIA BOULEVARD
ASTORIA, NY 11102
(718) 932-1804

WEBSITE: www.house.gov/maloney

February 12, 2009

Secretary Shinseki
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Washington, D.C., 20420

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Congratulations on your appointment as the new Secretary for Veterans Affairs. I am glad to hear that you would be leading this critically important department, especially in light of your strong record as a defender and advocate for our soldiers on active duty and our veterans. I look forward to working with you.

I am writing to inquire about the status of the VA's implementation of P.L. 109-461, the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act, that was signed into law on December 22, 2006 (included in S. 3421 passed in the 109th Congress). I sponsored a provision included in that legislation that authorized the use of veterans' housing loans for the purpose of purchasing stock or membership in a cooperative housing corporation.

The implementation of this program is of particular interest to me because in New York City cooperative housing is one of the most prevalent types of housing. In fact, cooperative housing represents almost 80% of ownership housing in Manhattan. Before this provision became law there were over 600,000 units in the greater New York City area of cooperative housing that were unavailable to veterans taking advantage of the VA loan program.

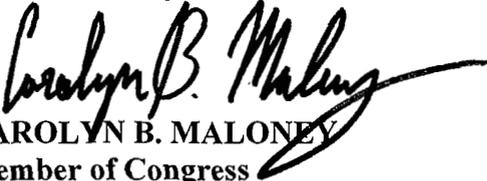
I am sure you agree this is an important program for our veterans. As I mentioned this cooperative loan program is extremely important to my constituent veterans in particular, and I want to be updated about the VA's successes and failures implementing this program.

- How many veterans have applied for the loan program to use cooperative housing?
- How many loans for cooperative housing have been given to veterans?

- Has the VA encountered difficulty in informing veterans on the availability of cooperative housing loans?

Thank you in advance for your assistance. I eagerly await your response.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress