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Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H.R. 10268 -- Release of names and addresses by the Veterans Administration. This bill clarifies existing law by specifying the purposes and conditions regarding release by the Veterans Administration (VA) of the names and addresses of veterans and their dependents who are receiving or have received treatment in VA health care facilities.

H. R. 10268 will:

-- specifically authorize the release of patient names or addresses to any criminal or civil law enforcement governmental agency charged with the protection of public health or safety if a qualified representative of the agency has made a written request that such names and addresses be provided for a purpose authorized by Federal, State or local law,

-- require that any such disclosure of information be made in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, and

-- increase the fines for willful misuse of names and addresses from \$500 to \$5000 for a first offense, and from \$5000 to \$20,000 for any subsequent offense.

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