WASHINGTON (October 11) – Citing the hardship being faced by veterans waiting for benefits, Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) is asking the Department of Veterans of Affairs to resolve a large backlog of claims and appeals cases.

In a letter to V.A. Secretary Eric Shinseki, Congressman Bachus said the backlog for appeals in the State of Alabama is now as high as 893 days, or more than two years. Bachus noted that one veteran who has contacted his office is awaiting review of an appeal certified on August 16, 2010.

“Our veterans made a commitment to us, and we must keep our commitment to them. In my district and across the country, these delays are forcing veterans into credit card debt, student loans at higher interest rates, and even choosing between going to school and meeting their daily living expenses,” stated Bachus in the letter.

Bachus asked Secretary Shinseki to detail steps that the VA can take to promptly process claims filed by veterans for benefits to which they are entitled.

To view the letter, click here .