

# **Federal government should spend to care for needy Americans first**

A recent letter by William Larsen prompted me to write to you. I have a close friend where I live who was denied care by the VA Hospital in a nearby town. His former employer went bankrupt, and he has no insurance. He served in Vietnam.

President Bush is cutting budgets for many national programs, but he spends \$3 billion or more per month to keep troops in Iraq. Our troops have been there since May, and there is still no electricity or water. The pre-planning for this occupation must have been carried out by the Three Stooges! Let's spend the money where it counts — taking care of U.S. citizens who are in desperate need.

*Charles Howard  
Bisbee, Az.*