Washington, DC (June 13, 2011) – Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-09), Vice Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, issued the following statement after attending a hearing regarding a recent Government Accountability Office report that found that sexual assaults at veterans facilities have often gone unreported (read the report here):

"This report is extremely disheartening and discouraging and brings to light a major problem within the VA," Bilirakis said. "The GAO has made valuable recommendations and I am hopeful that the VA can expedite these changes. Our veterans and those who work with veterans deserve the comfort of knowing that these environments are safe and secure, and we must get to the bottom of this problem and improve the situation."

UPDATED: Bilirakis has co-sponsored HR 2047, the **Veterans Sexual Assault Prevention Act** .