

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 6, 2018

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Schatz:

In May 2017, we wrote to ask that the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies provide funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) State Home Construction Grant Program. We were very pleased that the full Committee subsequently approved a Fiscal Year 2018 bill that provided an additional \$20 million from the 2017 level for this important program, and we sincerely thank you for your leadership in securing this additional funding. As the Subcommittee considers appropriations for 2019, we write again to ask that you continue your strong support for the State Home Construction Grant Program.

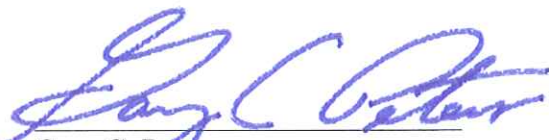
As you already well know, State Veterans Homes have a long history of helping ensure that veterans disabled by age, illness, or other conditions receive the respect and dignity they have earned through their service. Operated by state governments at more than 140 facilities across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, these facilities are critical in the effort to address the unique health and quality of life needs of each state's veteran population. The VA partners with certified state homes to provide nursing home, domiciliary, and adult day care services to critical segments of the veteran population with continuing or special medical needs, including thousands of elderly veterans.

Federal funds made available through the VA State Home Construction Grant Program allows states to make critical renovations and upgrades to existing facilities and construct new facilities to serve the aging veteran population. These grant opportunities are important to ensure that each State Veterans Home facility continues to meet VA's standards and delivers the highest caliber of care to veterans. The continued backlog of construction and renovation projects across the country, the majority of which have already secured matching state appropriations, presents challenges to meeting the long-term care needs of these veterans, particularly in rural states or states lacking alternate VA-certified facilities.

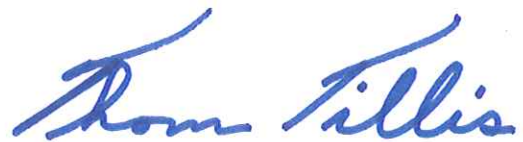
The additional funding provided in the 2018 appropriations bill is a good first step towards addressing these challenges. The funding will enable the VA and its state partners to make progress towards reducing the current backlog of construction and renovation projects, and will improve our ability to provide high-quality care for our country's veterans. We ask that you build on this progress and continue to provide robust funding for the VA State Home Construction Grant Program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued support in ensuring our nation's veterans live with dignity.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



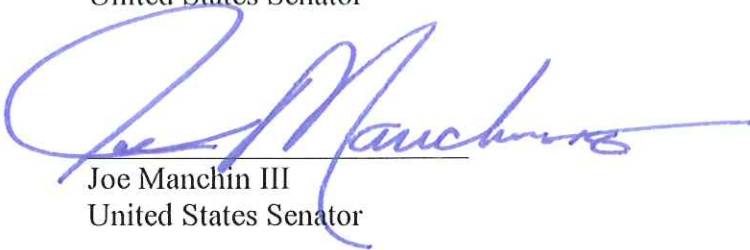
Thom Tillis
United States Senator




Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



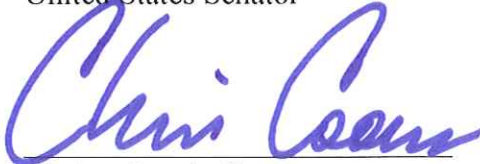
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



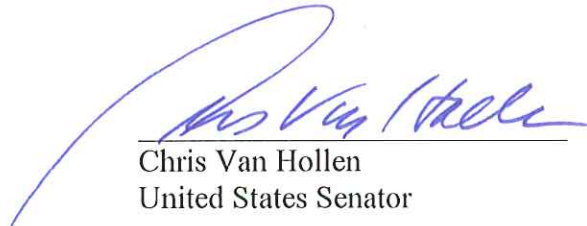
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



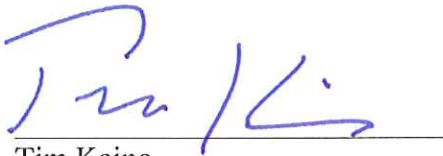
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator




Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



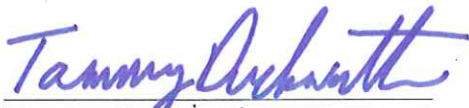
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Bernard Sanders
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Debbie Stabenow
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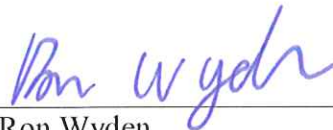
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
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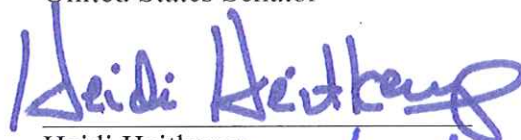
Jeanne Shaheen
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Ron Wyden
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James E. Risch
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



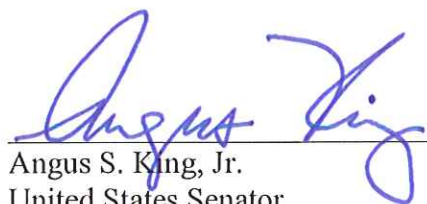
Steve Daines
United States Senator



Dean Heller
United States Senator



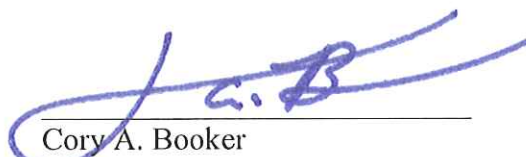
Susan Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
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Mike Crapo
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Cory A. Booker
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