

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2020

The Honorable John Boozeman
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 Boozman and Ranking Member Schatz:

We write to request appropriate funding towards the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program. We appreciate efforts made in recent years by the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies to reduce nationwide backlogs. We ask that you build on this progress by providing robust funding in Fiscal Year 2021 to reflect the importance of quality State Homes for our veterans and continue the program's more than 50 years of success.

Today there are 158 State Veterans Homes in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Veterans Homes provide veterans disabled by age, illness, or other conditions with a wide range of essential services, including skilled nursing, domiciliary care, rehabilitation therapy, mental health treatment, recreation activities and more. These facilities are beloved by their communities and can help prevent veterans from relocating far from their families.

Federal funds made available through the VA State Home Construction Grant Program allow states to modernize existing facilities and begin construction at new sites that will serve veterans in need. It is crucial that states can rely on VA to uphold its end of the bargain when starting new projects. Fully funding this account helps ensure Veterans Home construction occurs on schedule.

Ultimately it is our veterans who pay the price when this program is under resourced. Given that many states have Veterans Homes in need of renovation as well as planned construction projects in the pipeline, it is critical that this program has the tools it needs to be a continued success. As the Subcommittee considers appropriations for 2021, we ask that you fully fund the VA State Home Construction Grant Program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued support of veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

/s/

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

/s/

Mike Crapo
United States Senator

/s/

Tina Smith
United States Senator

/s/

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

/s/

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

/s/

James E. Risch
United States Senator

/s/

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/

Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator

/s/

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

/s/

Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

/s/

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

/s/

M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator

/s/

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

/s/

Kevin Cramer
United States Senator

/s/

Jack Reed
United States Senator

/s/

Martha McSally
United States Senator

/s/

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

/s/

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

/s/

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

/s/

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

/s/

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

/s/

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

/s/

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

/s/

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

/s/

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

/s/

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

/s/

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

/s/

Mazie Hirono
United States Senator

/s/

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator