

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 1, 2017

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:

As the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies considers appropriations for the 2018 fiscal year, we respectfully ask that you provide robust funding for the State Veterans Nursing Home Construction Grant Program. Continued federal support for State Veterans Homes will build on the success of these facilities in serving the long-term care needs of our country's veterans.

State Veterans Homes have a long history of helping ensure that veterans disabled by age, illness, or other conditions continue to receive the respect and dignity they have earned through their service. Operated by state governments, these facilities play important roles in the effort to address the unique health and quality of life needs of each state's veteran population. The Department of Veterans Affairs (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 State Veterans Nursing Construction Grant Program allow 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 growing backlog of more than 100 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.

We recognize the difficult budgetary decisions that the Subcommittee is facing. However, we want to underscore that robust funding for the State Veterans Nursing Home Construction Grant Program will allow State Veterans Homes to continue to provide high-quality care for our country's elderly veterans and veterans with long-term medical needs. Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued support in ensuring our nation's veterans live with dignity.

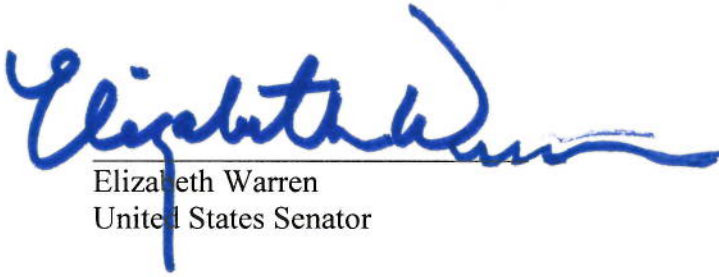
Sincerely,

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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator

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Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

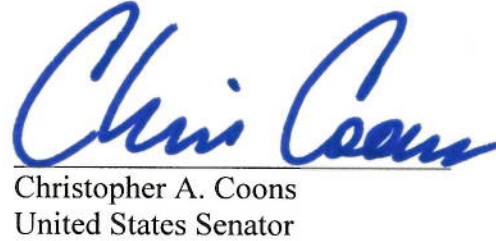


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Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

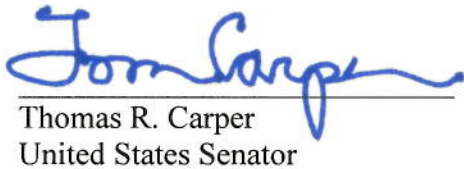
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Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



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Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator

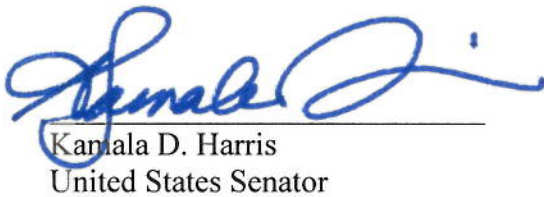


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Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator

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Al Franken  
United States Senator



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Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator

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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



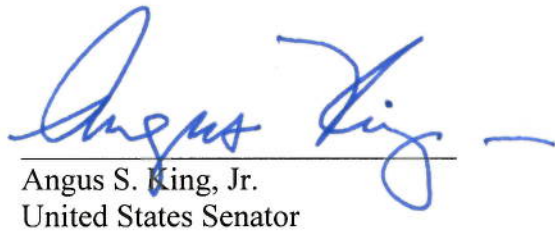
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Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senator



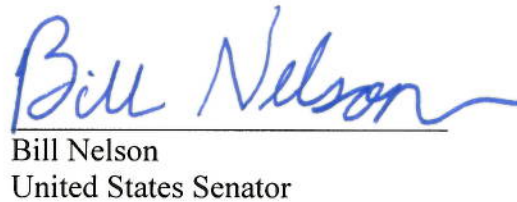
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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



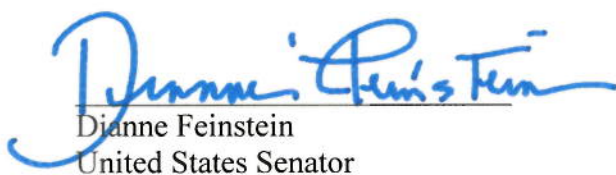
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Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



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Bill Nelson  
United States Senator



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Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator