

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 3, 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:

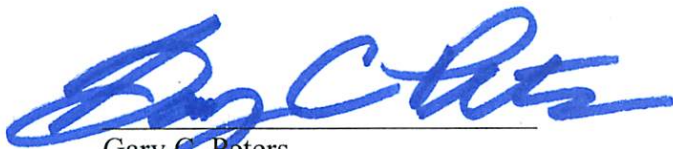
As the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies considers appropriations for the 2018 fiscal year, we respectfully ask that you provide robust funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) State Home Construction Grant Program. Continued federal support for VA State 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 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 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 VA State 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.

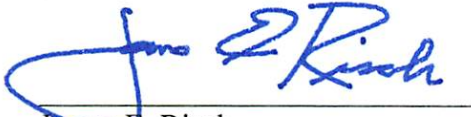
Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



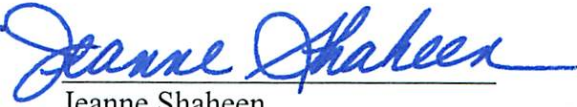
James E. Risch
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



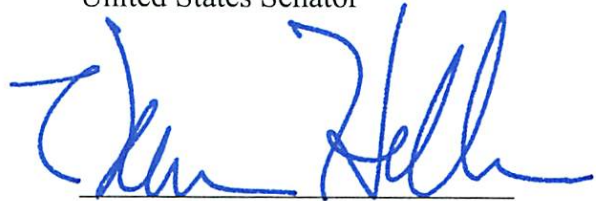
Steve Daines
United States Senator




Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



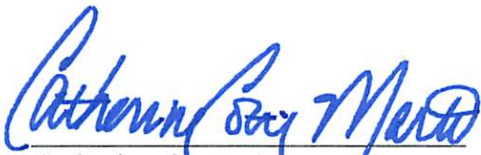
Dean Heller
United States Senator




Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Susan Collins
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Cory Booker
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator




Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator




Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



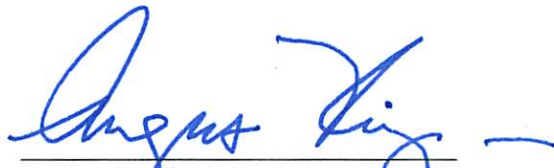
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



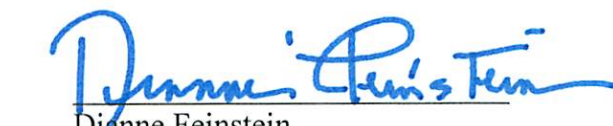
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator