

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2026

The Honorable John Carter
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz,

Thank you for your ongoing and stalwart support of the more than 17 million men and women who've earned the title "veteran" through their service of our country. As you begin crafting the Fiscal Year 2027 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies bill, we write to draw your attention to the urgent need for additional resources to support our State Veterans Homes.

More than 9 million of America's veterans are over 60 years of age – an aging demographic – and the current and future necessity to ensure excellent quality of care and quality of life in locations close to home for this demographic is of great national importance. **We are writing to urge you to provide support for appropriating at least \$600 million for the VA State Home Construction Grant Program in FY 2027, which would fund approximately half of the pending Priority Group 1 grant requests from the various states and territories around the country.**

State Veterans Homes date back more than a century to when the first Veteran Home opened in Rocky Hill, CT in 1864. For 138 years, State Veterans Homes have been in a cooperative relationship with the federal government in providing care and support to America's veterans and their loved ones. Today, there are 175 State Veterans Homes, with at least one in every state, as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Indeed, with nearly 30,000 beds the State Veterans Home Program is the largest provider of long-term care to our nation's veterans, with services that include skilled nursing care, domiciliary care, and adult day health care.

The partnership between the State Veterans Homes and the federal government allows for a unique and fiscally beneficial cost sharing model in the provision of care to our nation's veterans, with private pay, state funding, and federal funding through the Department of Veterans Affairs (and often the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) all contributing to the cost of care. Specifically, the State Home Construction Grant Program, authorized in Title 38 USC Section

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8131-8137 and regulated in 38 CFR Part 59, allows States to construct, renovate or repair these state-owned facilities, with the VA providing up to 65% of the cost of construction. The backlog of pending State Home Construction Grants is now over a billion dollars as Congressional appropriations continue to fall well short of needs. States are eager, willing and prepared to take on this important responsibility – as well as a share of the cost – of caring for our nation’s veterans. Unfortunately, only \$275 million, a small fraction of the funds needed, was appropriated last year, leaving many grant requests unfilled and an inability for states to move forward on the Priority Group 1 requests that were left unfunded.

The State Home Construction Grant Program and the construction, renovations, and repairs it affords to State Veterans Homes across our nation creates high quality skilled nursing and additional level of care opportunities for America’s veterans through a fiscally responsible cost-sharing model of service provision. As such, it is imperative this program is supported, and we encourage the appropriation of at least \$600M for the VA State Home Construction Grant Program to fund approximately half of the balance of pending Priority Group 1 grant requests from the states and territories.

We appreciate your leadership in the fight to keep America’s promise to our veterans and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



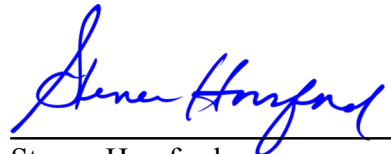
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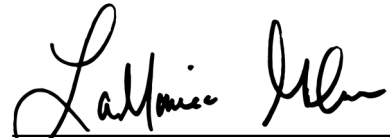
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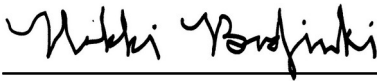
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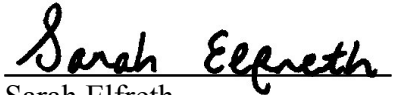
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LaMonica McIver
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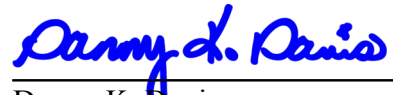
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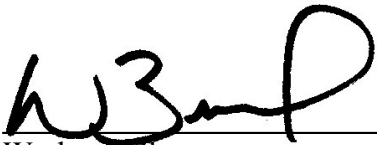
Sarah Elfreth
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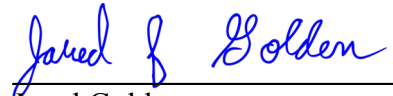
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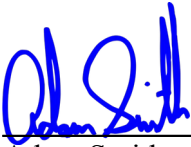
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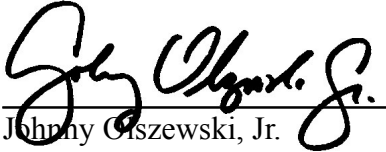
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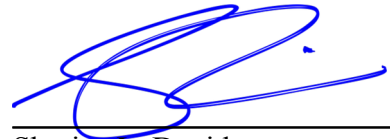
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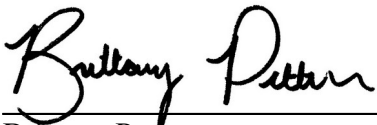
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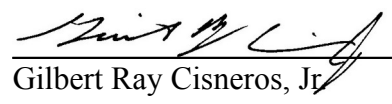



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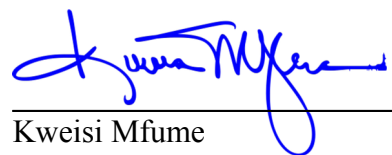

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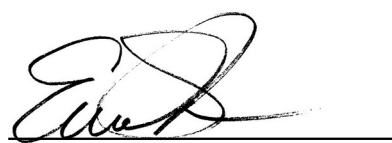

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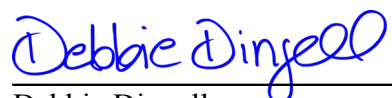

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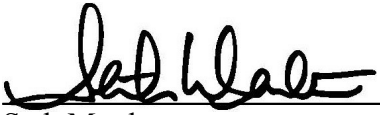

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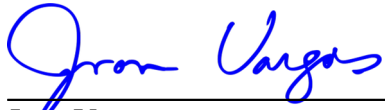
Jahana Hayes
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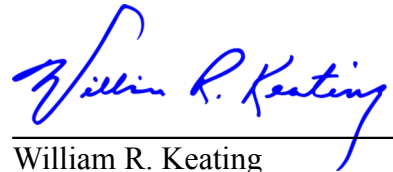
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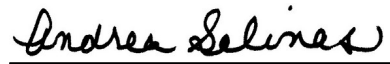
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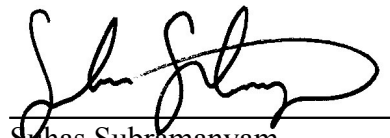
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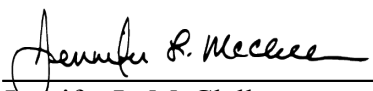
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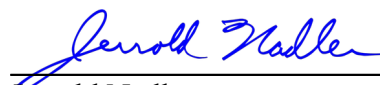
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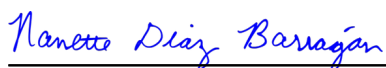
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García
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Dave Min
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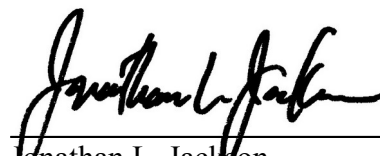
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Chris Pappas
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Delia C. Ramirez
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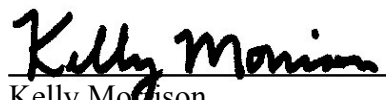
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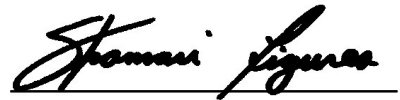
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Jared Moskowitz
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Summer L. Lee
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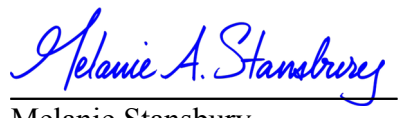
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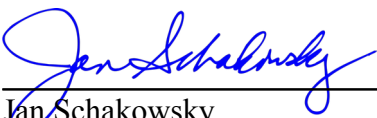
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