



FROM THE NEWSROOM OF:

HOUSE COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

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Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

[Bill Text](#) | [Committee Report](#)

Republicans amended the 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill to correct some of their recent initiatives that would harm veterans, including the immediate rescission of \$2 billion for veterans medical care in the Republicans' Default on America Act. House Republicans were shamed out of their dramatic cuts to the Toxic Exposures Fund, which was created in the PACT Act to ensure veterans of all wars exposed to Agent Orange, burn pits, and other toxic substances would always be cared for in the initial mark of their 2024 funding bill. Despite these changes, the bill still falls short, and paired with cuts to critical programs in the other domestic funding bills, Republicans are failing our veterans. House Democrats on the Appropriations Committee were united in their opposition, voting unanimously against this bill out of Committee and on the House Floor.

This bill, as amended:

- **Worsens the quality of life for servicemembers and their families and hurts military readiness by cutting military construction by over \$1.5 billion compared to the current level** and does not include dedicated funding for PFAS remediation and cleanup or military installation climate change and resilience projects.
- **Further limits women's access to abortion.**
- **Is built on a framework that reneges on the bipartisan budget agreement.** Veterans rely on programs across the entire federal government. House Republicans' proposals to slash critical domestic investment in other bills to levels not seen for years—and in some cases decades—strip away education, job opportunities, housing, and food assistance that veterans and their families depend on.
- **Cannot claim to support veterans** while making it harder for them to feed their families, and keep roofs over their heads while [denying them education and training opportunities at every stage of life](#).
- **Includes partisan changes to existing law, known as "riders," that Democrats will never support,** disenfranchising veterans rather than making VA a welcoming and inclusive place for all those who volunteer to serve our country. We did not make promises to certain servicemembers in exchange for their service and sacrifice; we made promises to everyone.

Key provisions of the bill as reported out of the House:

Department of Defense – The bill provides \$17.5 billion for Military Construction, which is \$1.5 billion below the 2023 level and \$200 million below the level marked up in subcommittee.

- The bill provides \$539 billion for the Department of Defense Base Closure Account (BRAC), which is a cut of \$35.5 million compared to the current level and does not include dedicated funding for PFAS remediation and cleanup, which is a cut of \$200 million from the current level. PFAS can lead to serious health problems, and failure to quickly clean up contaminated areas puts surrounding communities at risk.

- The bill does not include additional, dedicated funding for military installation climate change and resilience projects, which is a cut of \$90 million from the current level. Without this funding, military installations will fail to adapt to rising sea levels and worsening natural disasters, putting servicemembers and our national security at risk.
- The bill provides \$30 million above the budget request in dedicated funding for the oversight of housing, including over the privatized housing providers, secured by Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz in the Managers' amendment in Full Committee.

Department of Veterans Affairs – After being shamed into honoring our promise to veterans, House Republicans amended their bill to bill provide \$121 billion for the four medical care accounts. Combined with the \$17.1 billion provided for medical care through the Toxic Exposures Fund in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (P.L. 118–5), a total of \$138 billion is available for medical care in 2024, equal to the budget request.

- The bill further provides \$112.6 billion in advance appropriations for medical care. Combined with the \$21.5 billion provided in advance for 2025 for medical care through the Toxic Exposures Fund in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, a total of \$134 billion will be available for medical care in 2025, equal to the budget request.

The bill includes partisan riders:

- Prohibits VA from implementing the interim final rule on abortions, further limiting women's access to health care.
- Prohibits the use of funds to carry out the closure or realignment of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, or for construction in the United States to house detainees currently at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- Prohibits the use of funds to teach or promote Critical Race Theory.
- Prohibits the use of funds to implement executive orders related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Prohibits the use of funds for diversity, equity, and inclusion training or implementation.
- Disenfranchises veterans by limiting the ability to fly certain flags at VA facilities, aiming to eliminate the use of Pride flags.
- Prohibits surgical procedures or hormone therapies for gender-affirming care.
- Creates a license for people and organizations to discriminate against LGBTQI+ people under the guise of religious liberty and prevents the federal government from adequately responding.
- Prohibits the use of funds to implement executive orders related to climate change.
- Prohibits the use of funds to enforce any COVID-19 mask mandate.
- Prohibits VA from carrying out its directive related to COVID-19 vaccination for Veterans Health Care Administration personnel.
- Prohibits VA from installing its new mission statement to recognize all veterans who served.