



Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

The fiscal year 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, together with advance funding provided in the fiscal year 2025 continuing resolution, provides \$469 billion for fiscal year 2026, an increase of \$21.2 billion, or 4.5 percent, above current funding levels. Of this amount, discretionary funding for programs such as veterans' health care and military construction totals \$152 billion, an increase of \$5 billion above fiscal year 2025. The bill also provides advance funding of \$384 billion for fiscal year 2027 but does not include advance funding in the Toxic Exposures Fund for veterans' medical care. The bill:

- **Worsens the quality of life for servicemembers and their families and hurts military readiness** by funding military construction \$904 million below what is needed.
- **Enacts the Project 2025 goal to privatize medical care for veterans** by transferring billions to private hospitals and clinics which will only lead to higher costs, longer wait times, poor communication and coordination, and diminished quality of care.
- **Further limits women's access to abortion**, harming women veterans' health.
- **Leaves military installations, servicemembers, and their families vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and worsening natural disasters** by failing to include dedicated funding to strength military installations against these threats.
- **Does not fulfill the United States' commitments to our allies** by providing \$188 million less than what is needed on NATO infrastructure.
- **Undermines the ability to keep guns out of the hands of those prohibited under Federal law from purchasing or possessing firearms.**
- **Repeats the same extreme House Republican tactics attempted last year by including partisan changes to existing law**, known as "riders," that hurt Americans and create chaos. Once again, Republicans are disenfranchising veterans rather than making VA a welcoming and inclusive place for all those who volunteer to serve our country.

Bill Summary

Military Construction – The bill provides a total of \$18 billion for military construction, \$480 million above the fiscal year 2025 enacted level and \$904 million below the

President's budget request. Of this amount, the bill includes:

- \$830 million for additional funding for **Child Development Centers, Barracks, Demolition, Lab Infrastructure** and other unfunded requirements.
- \$2 billion for **Family Housing**, \$30 million above the enacted level and \$189 million above the budget request.
- \$992 million for construction or alteration of **Guard and Reserve** facilities in states and territories, a decrease of \$97 million below the fiscal year 2025 enacted level and \$546 million above the budget request.
- \$293 million for the **NATO Security Investment Program**, \$188 million below the budget request and equal to the enacted level.
- \$489 million for **Base Realignment and Closure remediation**, equal to the enacted level and \$79 million above the budget request.
- There is no dedicated funding for **Climate Change and Resilience** to mitigate the risks of climate change to military installations and ensure installation readiness.
- There is no dedicated funding for **Natural Disaster Recovery construction**.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) – The bill provides a total of \$134 billion in discretionary appropriations for VA for fiscal year 2026, an increase of \$4.7 billion above the fiscal year 2025 enacted level and \$1.2 billion below the President's budget request. Of this amount, the bill includes:

- \$117 billion for **Veterans Medical Care**, equal to the President's fiscal year 2026 budget request and \$4 billion above the fiscal year 2025 enacted level. When combined with an additional \$50 billion for veterans medical care provided through the Toxic Exposures Fund, total funds provided for veterans medical care for fiscal year 2026 sum to \$167 billion.
- Additionally, the bill includes \$122 billion in advance fiscal year 2027 funding for **Veterans Medical Care** – equal to the President's budget request. The bill does not include \$52 billion advance funding for veterans medical care in the Toxic Exposures Fund requested in the President's budget.
- The bill includes \$14.4 billion for VA non-medical care programs. Of this amount:
 - \$943 million is for **Medical and Prosthetic Research**, equal to the request and fiscal year 2025 enacted level.

- \$2.5 billion is to continue implementation of the **VA Electronic Health Record Modernization** initiative, \$979 million below the budget request and \$1.2 billion above the enacted level.
- \$2 billion is for **VA Construction** programs, \$121 million below the budget request and \$329 million above the enacted level. Within this amount, \$1.8 billion is for Major Construction and \$232 million is for Minor Construction. In addition, \$900 million in funds made available from the Recurring Expenses Transformational Fund will support additional VA construction projects, for a total funding level of \$3 billion in fiscal year 2026.
- \$171 million is for **Grants for Construction of State Extended Care Facilities**, equal to the budget request and the enacted level.
- \$3.9 billion is for operating expenses of the **Veterans Benefits Administration**, \$3 million below the budget request and \$23 million below the fiscal year 2025 enacted.
- \$970 million is for a new homelessness program proposed by the Administration called “**Bridging Rental Assistance for Veteran Empowerment (BRAVE)**”
- The bill includes \$262 billion in advance fiscal year 2027 mandatory funding for VA benefit programs, equal to the request.

Related Agencies – The bill provides a total of \$341 million in discretionary appropriations for related agencies, a decrease of \$11 million below the budget request and \$131 million below the enacted level. Of this amount, the bill includes:

- \$115 million for **Arlington National Cemetery**, \$4 million below the budget request and \$73 million below the fiscal year 2025 enacted level.
- \$106 million for the **American Battle Monuments Commission**, \$281 thousand below the budget request and \$53 million below the fiscal year 2025 enacted level.
- \$71 million for the **Armed Forces Retirement Home**, \$6 million below the budget request and the fiscal year 2025 enacted level.

- \$49 million for the **Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims**, equal to the President's budget request and \$2 million above the fiscal year 2025 enacted level.

This legislation includes riders that would:

- Prohibit VA from implementing its interim final rule to provide abortions and abortion counseling.
- Prohibit VA from providing services to people unlawfully present in the United States.
- Undermines the ability to keep guns out of the hands of those prohibited under Federal law from purchasing or possessing firearms. The bill prohibits VA from reporting a beneficiary's name to the National Instant Background Check System based on VA's appointment of a fiduciary.
- Prohibit COVID-19 vaccination requirements for health care personnel.
- Prohibits classification of any communications from certain organizations from being classified as mis-, dis-, or mal-information.
- Prohibit the use of funds to carry out the closure or realignment of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay or to house in the continental United States individuals detained at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.