

**Statement Of Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.),
On The Fiscal Year 2022 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill
Wednesday, August 4, 2021**

The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill includes critical investments to support those who serve, once they return home. There is always a lot of debate about the immense resources provided to support our men and women in uniform. But it is when they come home that too often we fail to provide the resources, support structures, and investments these men and women, and those who support them, need. I am proud that this bill again includes \$40 million in funding for the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which is headquartered in White River Junction, Vermont, but has centers throughout the country and whose work benefits veterans and non-veterans everywhere. The National Center for PTSD is a world leader in the collection and dissemination of evidence-based research on the causes and treatment of PTSD. This funding will support all their work, including two programs I have been proud to support: a consultation program to bring knowledge of best practices to places veterans receive treatment across the country, and a brain bank providing high quality tissue for cutting-edge research.

The bill also includes priorities such as funding for the work of the Burn Pit and Airborne Hazard Center of Excellence, funding for fighting housing insecurity among veterans, funding for adaptive sports that help wounded veterans enjoy exercise and competition, and support for the Rural Health Office that focuses on the needs of rural veterans, like so many in Vermont.

I thank Chairman Heinrich – a new member to our Committee this year – and Senator Boozman for their work and that of their staffs on this important legislation.

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