



COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

CHAIRMAN PATRICK LEAHY

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Contact:

Jay Tilton :

(202) 224-2667

SUMMARY

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES FISCAL YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Washington, D.C. – The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies bill for fiscal year 2023, provides the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and related agencies \$135.2 billion in non-defense discretionary funding, as well as \$168.6 billion in mandatory funding, to fulfill our obligations to the nation’s veterans. This is \$34 billion above fiscal year 2022 levels. The bill further provides advance appropriations for fiscal year 2024, including \$128.1 billion for veterans medical care and \$155.4 billion for veterans benefits. The bill also includes \$19 billion in defense spending for military construction and family housing this year, which is \$4.1 billion over fiscal year 2022.

Key Areas of Funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs –

Honoring our PACT Act: The bill includes \$5 billion for the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund, which provides additional funding to implement landmark legislation that expands eligibility for health care services and benefits to veterans with conditions related to toxic exposure during their service. Additionally, it fully funds the budget request for accounts critical to implementation of the PACT Act, as outlined below.

VA Medical Care: The bill supports \$118.7 billion for VA medical care in fiscal year 2023, a \$21.7 billion or 22.4 percent increase over fiscal year 2022, to provide essential health services for more than 7.3 million veterans, including deferred care due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill funds critical priorities including:

- Rural Health – \$337 million, \$10 million more than fiscal year 2022, to support improved access to care, including expanded access to transportation and telehealth.
- Caregivers – \$1.9 billion, \$493 million more than fiscal year 2022, to help VA implement this critical program consistent with Congressional intent.
- Women’s Health – \$840.5 million, equal to fiscal year 2022, for gender-specific healthcare services, as well as initiatives and improvements to healthcare facilities.
- Veteran Homelessness Prevention – \$2.7 billion, \$541 million more than in fiscal year 2022, to support critical services and housing assistance for veterans and their families experiencing housing insecurity.

- Mental Health – \$13.9 billion, \$744 billion more than in fiscal year 2022. This includes \$498 million for suicide prevention outreach.

Benefits Administration: The bill provides \$3.9 billion, a \$409 million or 11.9 percent increase over fiscal year 2022, to administer benefits, including disability compensation benefits to over 6 million veterans and their survivors. These funds will support VA’s effort to support increases in the number and scope of claims, while decreasing the claims backlog.

Medical and Prosthetics Research: The bill builds on the Committee’s efforts to provide historic levels of investment into research, providing \$916 million for this fiscal year, \$34 million more than fiscal year 2022. This supports ongoing and new research in areas such as toxic exposures, traumatic brain injury, and precision oncology.

Infrastructure: The bill strengthens VA’s infrastructure by providing over \$2 billion for major and minor construction.

Information Technology: The bill provides \$5.8 billion in funding for information technology systems, in addition to \$1.8 billion to continue the Department’s work to roll out the electronic health record system to facilities across the country.

Key Areas of Military Construction funding –

Supporting our National Security: The bill provides a historical level of funding for over 300 major construction projects as well as minor construction and design accounts. These projects support operational requirements by providing new training and maintenance facilities, modernizing infrastructure enabling the Nuclear Triad, and updating National Guard Readiness Centers in over a dozen states. The bill also provides funding for constructing troop and family housing at home and abroad.

Recovering from Natural Disasters: The bill provides \$360 million for the Air Force to continue to rebuild facilities at installations in Florida and Nebraska damaged or destroyed by hurricanes and riverine flooding in prior years.

Critical Overseas Infrastructure: Recognizing the importance of infrastructure in a sustained and capable U.S. and allied military presence in Europe, particularly in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the bill includes over \$500 million for projects that support the European Deterrence Initiative. The bill also provides \$220 million for the NATO Security Investment Program. This fully funds the U.S. cost share for NATO military construction projects.

Additionally, to build on efforts in recent years to prioritize funding supporting our posture in the Pacific, the bill includes over \$1.2 billion for more than a dozen projects in the Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) theater that support the Pacific Deterrence Initiative, as well as \$50 million more than the budget request for INDOPACOM planning and design and minor construction.

Installation Resilience: The bill builds on recent year’s investments to ensure our bases and infrastructure are resilient. It includes \$90 million for planning and design and major construction for Military Installation Resilience which enables DOD to develop and construct projects that help address facility vulnerabilities, particularly related to climate events. It also includes \$653 million for the Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program, which is \$189 million above fiscal year 2022.

Key Areas of Funding for Critical Related Agencies –

Arlington National Cemetery: This bill reflects Congress’ unwavering support for Arlington National Cemetery, and an investment in its future as an active cemetery. In addition to providing \$93.4 million for operations costs, which is \$6.4 million more than fiscal year 2022, it also includes \$62.5 million for the Southern Expansion construction project and Memorial Avenue improvements.

American Battle Monuments Commission: Recognizing the important mission of the American Battle Monuments Commission, the bill provides \$87.5 million for operations and to address unfunded needs.

Armed Forces Retirement Home: The bill provides a total of \$152.4 million, which in addition to funding operations and maintenance activities, includes \$77 million for the design and construction phases of a major renovation of a residential facility on the Armed Forces Retirement Home-Washington campus.

Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims: This bill provides \$46.9 million for the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, which is \$5.2 million above fiscal year 2022. This increase supports the planned temporary expansion, which will improve the court’s capacity to adjudicate appeals in a timely manner.

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