Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

November 10, 2026

The Honorable Doug Collins
Secretary
United States Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Collins:

We write today to encourage the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to work with Congress to fully fund the Priority 1 State Home Construction List, including the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) projects to build the new Roseburg State Veterans' Home and renovate the Edward C. Allworth Veterans' Home in Lebanon.

Oregon has established a strong record of providing specialized residential and long-term care to those who have served our country. ODVA currently operates two state veterans' homes: the Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles, a 151-bed skilled nursing facility, and the Edward C. Allworth Veterans' Home in Lebanon, a 154-bed assisted living facility. Together, these facilities provide critical services to Oregon's veterans, including skilled nursing, memory care, rehabilitation, and long-term residential support for veterans, their spouses, and Gold Star parents. Beyond the care they provide, these homes offer an environment built around the shared experiences of military service, camaraderie, and an understanding of the unique challenges veterans may face as they age or experience disabilities.

Continued investment in Oregon's veterans' care infrastructure is essential to meet the needs of our state's geographically diverse veteran population, particularly in rural Oregon. The proposed Roseburg State Veterans' Home would address a significant gap in services for veterans in southern Oregon. Located in Douglas County, Roseburg is surrounded by rural communities where access to specialized long-term care can be limited. Douglas County alone is home to more than 10,000 veterans. The proposed facility would also expand access to care for approximately 68,000 veterans within the VA Southern Oregon Healthcare System service area, including Jackson, Josephine, Klamath and Lake counties in Oregon, as well as Siskiyou and Del Norte counties in California.

The State of Oregon has demonstrated its commitment to these efforts through legislative action and financial investment. In 2024, the Oregon Legislature appropriated $35 million toward the Roseburg State Veterans' Home project, reflecting the state's willingness to contribute substantial resources toward its development. ODVA has also submitted documentation demonstrating the availability of the required state funding in accordance with federal program requirements. We believe this commitment should be met with a strong federal partnership that allows Oregon to advance the Roseburg State Veterans' Home.

We support efforts to fully fund the Priority 1 list and urge the VA to work quickly in coordination with Congress to make that funding a reality. By working together, the VA,

Congress and the State of Oregon can help ensure that veterans and their families have access to the care, dignity and support they have earned.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Val Hoyle
Member of Congress

Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress