

Date:

The Honorable Anna Caballero
12th Senate District
1021 O Street, Rm 7620
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
30th Assembly District
1021 O Street, Rm 5110
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John Laird
17th Senate District
1021 O Street, Rm 8720
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mark Stone
29th Assembly District
1021 O Street, Rm 5740
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for a Cal-VET Veteran's Home in California

Dear <to whom it may concern>:

On behalf of <insert organization>, we are writing to support establishing an additional Cal-VET, Veterans Home in California.

Currently, there are extended wait times to access the established Veterans Homes in the State for much-needed services. If Veterans are unable to access Veteran Home services timely, they will have to seek other options, potentially out of the State of California or even risk becoming homeless. For Veterans in need of Skilled Nursing and Memory Care must wait years before they get admitted. The construction of a new Veterans Home would help to alleviate the long wait times and keep our Veterans in the State. Current wait times for these services are:

- Yountville: 5+ years wait time for admittance.
- West Los Angeles: 3 years wait time for admittance.
- Fresno: 5 years wait time for admittance.
- Redding: 6 years wait time for admittance.

California is losing veterans at an alarming rate – much faster than the next 2 largest veteran population states (Texas and Florida). We owe all we have to the veterans of this Nation, and it is our joint obligation to do all we can to care for those who have selflessly served for the freedoms we have today. Currently, California Veterans receive more than 8 Billion in Federal VA Compensation and Pension Payments. In addition, many receive Post 9/11 GI Bill, Chapter 33 Education Benefits, and DoD Retirements. If Veterans leave the state so will the need for Veteran Serving organizations that create high-paying jobs with the Federal VA, State, Counties, Private Sector, and Non-Profits that serve our Veterans. Veterans positively impact the California Ecosystem.

The construction of a new Veterans Home will lower or eliminate wait times for admittance into the Cal-VET Veterans Homes for services including combined skilled nursing and memory care services. Adding an additional Veterans Home will increase the number of homes to 9 in the state. Homes are available to Disabled and Aged Veterans as well as spouses. This home will provide critical care to our state's heroes and decrease the risk of these veterans becoming homeless.

For these reasons, we support Monterey County's request for State authorization to build a Veterans Home in the region. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact <insert contact information>.

Sincerely,

<Insert signature>

<Cc:>