

Statement from Congresswoman Maggie Goodlander (NH-02)
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
May 20, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Carter, Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz, and Members of the Subcommittee. Thank you for this opportunity today to highlight military construction and veterans affairs priorities for New Hampshire's Second District as you continue your work on the FY26 appropriations bill.

These are issues that run deep in my home state of New Hampshire and that are core to who we are. New Hampshire is a proud home to several mission-critical facilities for our national security and defense, including the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the New Boston Space Force Station. They conduct critical work for America's Armed Forces, and accordingly, deserve this subcommittee's support.

As one of the longest-standing naval shipyards in the nation, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard has been a lifeblood institution for my state and our nation since 1800. Today, it helps ensure the safe overhaul, repair, and modernization of the U.S. Navy's nuclear-powered attack submarine fleet. Portsmouth has a top-tier workforce of dedicated engineers, environmental specialists, mechanics, security forces, and more. They work tirelessly to ensure the United States has the capabilities it needs to protect itself and its allies around the globe.

The shipyard is currently undergoing a historic expansion to meet our country's national security needs, and we need to continue investing in Portsmouth's facilities. But above all, we need to continue investing in Portsmouth's people. That is why I am fighting hard to protect the

extraordinary men and women who work in our shipyard from the Trump Administration's dangerous hiring freezes, workforce cuts, and attacks on the basic rights and essential retirement benefits of shipyard workers. And, among other things, I urge you to support the Child Development Centers at the Department of Defense, which provide essential childcare services for our servicemembers and DoD civilians.

New Hampshire is also home to the New Boston Space Force Station, which is one of eight worldwide Satellite Control Network Tracking Stations. The dedicated servicemembers at this station provide critical, around-the-clock satellite command and control capabilities for the United States and its allies. It also supports the nation's GPS system, serving millions of Americans every day.

I am proud to represent New Hampshire's more than 85,000 veterans in Congress, along with our incredible vet centers, outpatient clinics, benefit offices, and VA medical center.

Earlier this month, President Trump issued an Executive Order directing the VA to work towards expanding services at the Manchester VA Medical Center. I can tell you firsthand that this VAMC is essential to the health and well-being of tens of thousands of veterans who rely on their vital services every single day. I urge the Administration to move swiftly towards establishing a full-service VA hospital, which New Hampshire veterans need and deserve. It is simply unacceptable that New Hampshire is the only state in the contiguous 48 states without a dedicated, full-service VA hospital. Our veterans deserve better, and I urge the members of this subcommittee to help us deliver on our sacred promise to them.

As this subcommittee considers appropriations requests for the 2026 fiscal year, I urge you to prioritize several additional programs that support our servicemembers and veterans.

I also urge you to support the State Veterans Homes Program, which is the largest provider of long-term care including skilled nursing, domiciliary care, and adult day care.

I urge you to protect and prioritize the Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase Program, which the Trump Administration stopped on May 1, 2025. This is a lifeline program that has helped veteran borrowers avoid foreclosure with more affordable interest rates and monthly payments on their VA-guaranteed loans. The program is not a handout but a hand up to our veterans.

Further, I ask the subcommittee to support initiatives which promote the physical and mental health of our veterans. These include efforts to provide peer support specialists for women veterans, ensure adequate staffing of the Veterans Crisis Line, promote National Veterans Sports Programs like those delivered at the University of New Hampshire, and deliver care for veterans with traumatic brain injuries.

Through these requests, I urge the subcommittee to continue providing care for our servicemembers and veterans in New Hampshire, and across the United States. We owe a sacred obligation to the men and women who serve our country in uniform, often risking their lives for our safety and security. I look forward to working with you all to ensure we live up to that promise.

I thank the subcommittee for its consideration of these requests, and the chance to speak here today. I yield back.