

House Veterans Affairs Committee
“Member Day: House Committee on Veterans Affairs”
December 4, 2025
Representative Val Hoyle

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the veterans in my district who have been advocating since 2011 for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to fund Roseburg’s State Veterans Home grant application. Our veterans have served, sacrificed and shown the ultimate commitment to our country. In return, it is our responsibility to make sure they are taken care of and can get the healthcare they need.

There are more veterans in Oregon's Fourth Congressional District than any other district in Oregon, and I am proud to serve them in Congress. With the majority of my district being rural, having limited access to resources, and our veterans having deep roots in our community, it is vital that we give them the dignity they’ve earned to allow them to age in place.

According to the State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program, in order to receive funding, states must provide 35 percent of the funding for the homes, with the VA providing the remaining funds. The Oregon State Legislature has done their job to secure matching funds several times, including when I served in the legislature in 2011 and again in 2024.

Because the Roseburg State Veterans Home’s application has consistently been overlooked, the cost of the project continues to increase due to inflation and other extraneous factors, meaning the funding the state needs to secure is rising. Since the latest funding is set to expire in 2027, the VA needs to award funding for this project as soon as possible.

However, the State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program has been chronically underfunded by Congress - by nearly \$1 billion. Because of this, the VA appears to be prioritizing minor grants for repairs and modifications of existing state homes, rather than new construction, leaving an inexcusable amount of veterans in my district around the country wondering if they will ever receive the care they’ve earned. That is why I submitted an amendment to the House's National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 to increase funding for the program. Unfortunately, majority leadership on the Rules Committee refused to allow this amendment to come up for a vote.

By appropriating sufficient funding to the State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program, we can enable individual states to pick up some of the slack where the federal government has failed our veterans, all while saving money at the federal level.

I call on my colleagues on the House Veterans Affairs Committee to work with the VA to prioritize the State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program and ensure our aging veterans across the country can live with the dignity they've earned and deserve.