

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Fiscal Year 2025 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a major medical facility project in fiscal year 2026 in St. Louis, Missouri, that consists of the construction of a new bed tower, clinical building expansion, consolidated administrative building and warehouse, utility plant, and parking garages, in an amount not to exceed \$1,762,668,000.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects account, \$1,762,668,000 for the project authorized in subsection (a).

CARING FOR VETERANS AND STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SECURITY ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3436 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3436) to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of certain services to veterans in the Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3436) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3436

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Caring for Veterans and Strengthening National Security Act”.

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE CERTAIN SERVICES TO VETERANS IN THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

(a) TELEHEALTH AND MAIL ORDER PHARMACY BENEFITS.—Section 1724(f)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Caring for Veterans and Strengthening National Security Act, the Secretary shall furnish to veterans described in subparagraph (A), subject to agreements described in such subparagraph, telehealth benefits and mail order pharmacy benefits.”.

(b) BENEFICIARY TRAVEL.—Section 111(h)(1) of such title is amended by striking “the Secretary may make payments” and inserting “beginning not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Caring for

Veterans and Strengthening National Security Act, the Secretary shall make payments”.

(c) QUARTERLY REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the status of implementation of the amendments made by this section and the cost of such implementation.

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “January 31, 2033” and inserting “March 31, 2033”.

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY CARE AS AN ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR MEETING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF THE VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration and the Senate immediately proceed to S. Res. 492.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 492) recognizing community care as an essential tool for meeting the health care needs of the veterans of the United States.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 492), was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 10, 2025, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

RECOGNIZING THAT CARE PROVIDED BY EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IS ESSENTIAL FOR MEETING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 566, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 566) recognizing that care provided by employees of the Depart-

ment of Veterans Affairs is essential for meeting the health care needs of veterans of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 566) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL S. 1071

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 66, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 66) directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill S. 1071.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 66) was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION**EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 581, Calendar Nos. 602 through 607, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk, with the exception of PN89; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

NOMINATIONS
IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. George H. Sebren, Jr.

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Brad J. Collins

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. John L. Rafferty, Jr.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Dale R. White

IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Brad W. Pierson

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Clinton Mead

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while serving as the Chief Defense Counsel for Military Commissions under article II, section 2, clause 2 of the United States Constitution and section 1037 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014:

To be brigadier general

Col. Jonathan H. Vaughn

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S
DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN659 AIR FORCE nomination of Jeremy P. Garlick, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN660 AIR FORCE nomination of Robert D. Huhn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN661 AIR FORCE nomination of Dawn R. Hardwick, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

IN THE ARMY

PN674 ARMY nomination of George A. Mesias, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 1, 2025.

PN678 ARMY nomination of Peter S. Salfeety, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 2, 2025.

PN679 ARMY nominations (5) beginning Sean M. Dixon, and ending Patrick D.

McGrail, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 2, 2025.

PN692 ARMY nominations (27) beginning Kathleen A. Agbayani, and ending Mikel J. Wier, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 10, 2025.

PN693 ARMY nomination of Myles T. Coleman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 1, 2025.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN662 MARINE CORPS nomination Sarah B. Pezzat, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN663 MARINE CORPS nomination of Robert J. Hillery, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

IN THE NAVY

PN664 NAVY nomination of Sarah D. Rushnov, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN665 NAVY nomination of William F. Murphy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN666 NAVY nomination of Kevin A. Witte-Hunt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN667 NAVY nomination of Michael J. Beer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN668 NAVY nomination of Michael K. Mosi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN669 NAVY nomination of Jeffrey T. Vanak, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN694 NAVY nominations (3) beginning Brian W. Mendenhall, and ending Ashish C. Sinha, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 10, 2025.

PN695 NAVY nominations (3) beginning Thomas S. Giugliano, and ending Sehba Husain-Krautter, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 10, 2025.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN670 SPACE FORCE nomination of Marc B. Green, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN671 SPACE FORCE nominations (3) beginning JACOB A. DAHLKE, and ending JASMINE C. TOYE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 18, 2025

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 18; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired,

morning business be closed, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the en bloc nominations provided for under the provisions of Executive Calendar No. 4, S. Res. 532, postcloture, and that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture; further, that at 12 noon, the Senate resume legislative session to execute the order of December 10 in relation to S.J. Res. 82, and the Senate vote on passage, and upon disposition of S.J. Res. 82, the Senate resume executive session; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:05 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 17, 2025:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. GEORGE H. SEBREN, JR.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE
ADMINISTRATION

JARED ISAACMAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DOUGLAS WEAVER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2026.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) BRAD J. COLLINS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHN L. RAFFERTY, JR.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. DALE R. WHITE

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211: