# FY 2019 Military Construction & Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill

## \$96.9B IN DISCRETIONARY FUNDING - \$4.2B ABOVE FY18

### > CARING FOR OUR VETERANS

- Totals \$85.3B in discretionary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, an increase of
   \$3.9B (\$4.8%) above the FY18 enacted level the largest dollar amount in history for the VA
- Funds VA medical care at \$71.2B providing for 7 million patients to be treated in FY19, including:
  - \$8.6B for mental health care services
  - \$196M for suicide prevention outreach
  - \$589M for traumatic brain injury treatment
- \$7.4B for homeless veterans services
- \$387M for opioid abuse prevention
- \$270M for rural veterans health initiatives
- Ensures funding (\$1.2B) to modernize the VA's electronic health record system to provide seamless care to veterans as they transition from military service
- Provides funding and resources to resolve claims for more than 450,000 veterans who are waiting for the compensation they deserve

#### IMPROVING VA FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Strengthens oversight and accountability to ensure taxpayer dollars are being used to best benefit our veterans by including several provisions to hold the VA accountable and address decisions that have wasted money and damaged trust, including:
  - Rigorous reporting on the status of VA claims processing
  - Requiring an ongoing GAO review of the development of the VA electronic health record system
  - Implementing stronger oversight and limits on VA construction projects
  - Including funding for VA oversight offices to protect whistleblowers and increase accountability by investigating poorly performing managers and inferior patient care

### REBUILDING OUR MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE

- Continues rebuilding infrastructure for our service members and their families with a total of \$10.3B for military construction projects, an increase of \$241M (2.4%) above the FY18 levels
- Provides funding for 174 military construction projects across the country and overseas –
  projects that strengthen our national security, enable our military to complete their missions
  successfully, and support our military families with quality schools, housing, and other services
- Provides \$1.6B for housing all 1,400,000 military families currently served
- Includes \$361M for the construction or alteration of new or existing military medical facilities, allowing for the care of 9.8 million eligible beneficiaries, including our wounded troops abroad
- Fulfills our ongoing responsibilities in the Global War on Terror and the European Deterrence
   Initiative by providing \$921M in Overseas Contingency Operations funding for 27 projects