



## Veterans Provisions in the Build Back Better Agenda

### A Down Payment for America's Veterans

Most VA hospitals are over 50 years old, and it is clear there are places where the infrastructure of these buildings is failing our veterans. That's unacceptable, and [nearly three fourths of Americans agree](#) that it's time for an update.

### President Biden's Build Back Better Plan

The \$5 billion set aside for VA in President Biden's Build Back Better plan will allow us to restore veterans' faith in VA by literally rebuilding the physical infrastructure of the VA system, investing in VA's workforce, and providing much-needed updates to the support structures that serve our veterans.

### This package:

- **Provides \$2.3 billion in resources for VA's capital investment portfolio, allowing VA to update its clinics and medical facilities.** If we're going to build back veterans' trust, we need to start making serious investments in the Department meant to serve them. This investment in the brick-and-mortar infrastructure will allow VA to make improvements to aging facilities. If we want VA to deliver 21<sup>st</sup> century care, we need to ensure VA has 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure.
- **Allocates \$1.8 billion for major medical facility leases.** This is a key investment that will help VA address a backlog of medical facility leases that have been awaiting congressional authorization and one that will truly impact veterans by vastly improving access to healthcare.
- **Sets aside \$455 million for VA to invest in a veteran-centric, enhanced-use lease program.** This expands on VA's existing authority to lease vacant or under-utilized buildings to organizations that provide services to veterans. VA can already lease property to organizations that provide supportive housing, but this will allow the Department to lease property to serve other veteran needs.
- **Provides \$268 million to conduct an education and training program for health professional students and residents.** We need more staff and clinicians to provide the world-class care we have promised to veterans. This would increase the number of health professions residency positions at VA medical facilities by up to 500 positions over 7 years, helping not only veterans, but the nation as a whole,

by addressing the overall shortage of physicians, nurses, psychologists, and other healthcare professionals.

- **Secures \$150 million to address the backlog of unscanned veteran records.** VA needs a modern and efficient method for managing veterans' service records. With additional funding, VA plans to have more veteran records available on day one of the receipt of a claim at VBA.
- **Includes \$5 million for VA's Office of Inspector General (OIG).** This will allow the OIG to carry out enhanced oversight of these investments, which will greatly aid Congress in its own oversight of VA's efforts.