

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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KATHLEEN KRAUSE
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June 25, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman, Senate Committee on Armed
Services
Room 228, Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Room 412, Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for H.R. 3944 – Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026

Dear Senator Collins, Senator Wicker, and Senator Moran,

On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 3944, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026.

Kern County is home to a large and proud community of veterans, active-duty service members, and military families, supported in part by nearby installations such as Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake and Edwards Air Force Base. Federal investments through this appropriations bill directly support the infrastructure, services, and quality of life for our military community, both on base and in our neighborhoods.

This legislation ensures vital funding for military construction projects, modernization of base infrastructure, and robust support for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, including medical care, mental health services, and housing assistance for veterans. These investments are especially important in rural and underserved areas like ours, where access to VA facilities and services can often be limited.

We are particularly encouraged by continued support for addressing the needs of homeless veterans, expanding access to care through VA Community Care programs, and investing in mental health and suicide prevention services.

Kern County is committed to working with our federal partners to ensure veterans and military families receive the respect, care, and support they have earned. We respectfully urge swift passage of H.R. 3944 and thank you for your leadership on these important priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Leticia Perez', with a stylized, cursive script.

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Kern County Congressional Delegation
Jose Lopez, Kern County Veterans Services Director
Townsend Public Affairs