

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4334

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations are being made for fiscal year 2016.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 2016

Mr. TED LIEU of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations are being made for fiscal year 2016.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Fiscal Year 2016 De-
5 partment of Veterans Affairs Seismic Safety and Con-
6 struction Authorization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN MAJOR MEDICAL FA-**
2 **CILITY PROJECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**
3 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016
6 (Public Law 114–113), which was signed by the
7 President on December 18, 2015, included the fol-
8 lowing amounts to be appropriated to the Depart-
9 ment of Veterans Affairs:

10 (A) \$35,000,000 to make seismic correc-
11 tions to Building 208 at the West Los Angeles
12 Medical Center of the Department in Los Ange-
13 les, California, which, according to the Depart-
14 ment, is a building that is designated as having
15 an exceptionally high risk of sustaining sub-
16 stantial damage or collapsing during an earth-
17 quake.

18 (B) \$158,000,000 to provide for the con-
19 struction of a new research building, site work,
20 and demolition at the San Francisco Veterans
21 Affairs Medical Center.

22 (C) \$161,000,000 to replace Building 133
23 with a new community living center at the Long
24 Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Center, which,
25 according to the Department, is a building that
26 is designated as having an extremely high risk

1 of sustaining major damage during an earth-
2 quake.

3 (D) \$468,800,000 for construction projects
4 that are critical to the Department for ensuring
5 health care access and safety at medical facili-
6 ties in Louisville, Kentucky, Jefferson Barracks
7 in St. Louis, Missouri, Perry Point, Maryland,
8 American Lake, Washington, Alameda, Cali-
9 fornia, and Livermore, California.

10 (2) The Department is unable to obligate or ex-
11 pend the amounts described in paragraph (1), other
12 than for construction design, because the Depart-
13 ment lacks an explicit authorization by an Act of
14 Congress pursuant to section 8104(a)(2) of title 38,
15 United States Code, to carry out the major medical
16 facility projects described in such paragraph.

17 (3) Among the major medical facility projects
18 described in paragraph (1), three are critical seismic
19 safety projects in California.

20 (4) Every day that the critical seismic safety
21 projects described in paragraph (3) are delayed in-
22 creases the risk of a life-threatening building failure
23 in the case of a major seismic event.

24 (5) According to the United States Geological
25 Survey—

1 (A) California has more than a 99-percent
2 chance of experiencing an earthquake of mag-
3 nitude 6.7 or greater in the next 30 years;

4 (B) even earthquakes of less severity than
5 magnitude 6.7 can cause life threatening dam-
6 age to seismically unsafe buildings; and

7 (C) in California, earthquakes of mag-
8 nitude 6.0 or greater occur on average once
9 every 1.2 years.

10 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
11 fairs may carry out the following major medical facility
12 projects, with each project to be carried out in an amount
13 not to exceed the amount specified for that project:

14 (1) Seismic corrections to buildings, including
15 retrofitting and replacement of high-risk buildings,
16 in San Francisco, California, in an amount not to
17 exceed \$180,480,000.

18 (2) Seismic corrections to facilities, including
19 facilities to support homeless veterans, at the med-
20 ical center in West Los Angeles, California, in an
21 amount not to exceed \$105,500,000.

22 (3) Seismic corrections to the mental health
23 and community living center in Long Beach, Cali-
24 fornia, in an amount not to exceed \$287,100,000.

1 (4) Construction of an outpatient clinic, admin-
2 istrative space, cemetery, and columbarium in Ala-
3 meda, California, in an amount not to exceed
4 \$87,332,000.

5 (5) Realignment of medical facilities in Liver-
6 more, California, in an amount not to exceed
7 \$194,430,000.

8 (6) Construction of a medical center in Louis-
9 ville, Kentucky, in an amount not to exceed
10 \$150,000,000.

11 (7) Construction of a replacement community
12 living center in Perry Point, Maryland, in an
13 amount not to exceed \$92,700,000.

14 (8) Seismic corrections and other renovations to
15 several buildings and construction of a specialty care
16 building in American Lake, Washington, in an
17 amount not to exceed \$16,260,000.

18 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR CON-
19 STRUCTION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to
20 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2016 or
21 the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construc-
22 tion, Major Projects, account, \$1,113,802,000 for the
23 projects authorized in subsection (b).

24 (d) LIMITATION.—The projects authorized in sub-
25 section (b) may only be carried out using—

1 (1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2016 pur-
2 suant to the authorization of appropriations in sub-
3 section (c);

4 (2) funds available for Construction, Major
5 Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2016
6 that remain available for obligation;

7 (3) funds available for Construction, Major
8 Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2016 that
9 remain available for obligation;

10 (4) funds appropriated for Construction, Major
11 Projects, for fiscal year 2016 for a category of activ-
12 ity not specific to a project;

13 (5) funds appropriated for Construction, Major
14 Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2016 for
15 a category of activity not specific to a project; and

16 (6) funds appropriated for Construction, Major
17 Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2016 for
18 a category of activity not specific to a project.

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