



# California Legislature

May 23, 2020

Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1303 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Proposed Closure of California Veterans Home - Barstow

Dear Governor Newsom,

We are writing you today regarding your recently released 2020 Budget May Revise, specifically regarding your proposal to close the California Veterans Home - Barstow. As you know, this facility is one of only eight in California that continue to provide residential and skilled nursing services for veterans and their spouses.

We believe it is in the best interest of California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to keep the facility open and invest in the future suggestions as laid out in the Veteran Homes of California Master Plan 2020. The Master Plan 2020 does not advocate for the closure of any facility. In fact, the report highlights the necessary steps to “better utilize property and resources while offering more effective services, and without discharging a single resident in the process.” This report highlights that the Barstow facility provides critical care that is not compatible with the programming provided by other facilities. The eight California Veteran Homes are the only major providers of facility-based long-term care for their respective veteran communities.

It is our understanding that the loss of per-diem paid to the state by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for these residents will cost \$3 million per year, while closing the facility will only save the state \$400,000 in this fiscal year. The potential costs in transferring the residents and finding alternative providers for their specific needs would still need to be carved out of the \$400,000 savings in the budget.

Closing the Veterans Home – Barstow will displace over 200 residents and their family members, not only in the Barstow area, but also veterans in the outlying communities. We must always, especially during times of crisis, look to protect the facilities and services of our veteran communities at their most vulnerable moment. Closing the California Veterans Home- Barstow sends the wrong message to the California veteran community.

We are committed to keeping the California Veterans Home - Barstow open and continuing services to over 200 veterans and their families. If you would like to discuss our request further, please contact my office at (760) 244-5277.

Thank you for your commitment and your consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,



JAY OBERNOLTE  
Assemblyman, 33<sup>rd</sup> District



SHANNON GROVE  
Senator, 16<sup>th</sup> District



VINCE FONG  
Assemblyman, 34<sup>th</sup> District



TOM LACKEY  
Assemblyman, 36<sup>th</sup> District



SCOTT WILK  
Senator, 21<sup>st</sup> District

cc: Dr. Vito Imbasciani  
Secretary, California Department of Veterans Affairs