Dear Elected Official

***By Mail:***

Governor Charlie Baker's Office of Constituent Services

Massachusetts State House

24 Beacon St., Office of the Governor, Room 280

Boston, MA 02133

 ***By Email:***

To send your letter by email to the Governor: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/email-the-governors-office>

To find your legislator and address:  <https://malegislature.gov/search/findmylegislator>

Open up this [Document](https://5d7232e4-741d-4926-9f48-1678d2bcf6c2.usrfiles.com/ugd/5d7232_a389e1ef886a4984b83cce8b8da5cf79.docx) to find a list of leadership in the General Court – after you’ve written to your state representative and state senator, also write to other leaders, too!

***Sample Letter:***

In the wake of one of the greatest tragedies in our state – the worse outbreak of COVID-19 of any facility in New England and one of the worse in our nation -- I am signing my name to show support to the mission, vision and goals of the Holyoke Soldiers Home Coalition. I join the members of the coalition who call on you for much-needed [reforms](https://5d7232e4-741d-4926-9f48-1678d2bcf6c2.usrfiles.com/ugd/5d7232_235666df711f4e3a86b8f380ea2a9a84.pdf) and for their call to action in demanding these reforms and in supporting the construction of a new and vastly upgraded state Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke, to include a new addition and an Adult Day Health Care program. I also request that you keep me informed and hold focus groups, public hearings and outreach activities and events to ensure our **VOICES ARE HEARD**!

Our state must preserve the state Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke for future generations of Veterans and must ensure they receive the care they have earned and that they live in an environment in which the staff can efficiently provide the loving care they are known for and deserve. The legacy of outstanding care for the Veterans who use the home must be protected.

I call on you to support a new addition and much-needed renovations to the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke based on the projects that have already been approved by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and support the efforts of your administration to ensure these projects are reviewed, analyzed and brought up to 2020 standards. These projects remain on an active list for 65 percent federal reimbursement funding. In fact, the federal VA on May 12, 2020, signed its annual priority list of construction grants for state-run veteran homes across the country and the state Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke projects are still on that list.

I call on you to request state approval and matching funds to use the 2012 plan approved by the federal VA that would result in a new and modern addition. This new addition would provide a 120-bed, all private room facility. The current facility would be renovated to provide one- and two-person rooms. This new construction would provide greater independence, safety, and ultimately a much-improved quality of life for Veteran residents.

The need for action is NOW to meet federal deadlines for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to match federal funds under the federal VA State Home Construction Grant program.

Our Veterans and their family members deserve a profound statement of support as a memorial to the Veterans who died from the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. Our state needs to express in a significant way that their sacrifice resulted in positive and lasting change. The answer must be a new Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke that would demonstrably improve the quality of life for future generations of Veterans in western Massachusetts.

Respectfully,

Your Name & Address