<u>Mary Peltola voted against legislation that would have funded veterans' benefits, military construction projects, and family housing.</u>

<u>Peltola Voted Against The Fiscal 2024 Military Construction-VA Appropriations Bill</u>

On July 27, 2023, Peltola Voted Against The Fiscal 2024 Military Construction-VA Appropriations Bill. "Passage of the bill that would provide $317.4 billion in mandatory and discretionary funding for the VA, including $121 billion for VA medical care programs, $166 billion for veteran disability compensation and other benefits, $151.4 billion for veteran pensions, $17.5 billion for military construction projects and $2 billion for military personnel housing. It would also provide $293 million for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program, intended to counter Russian and Chinese military activities. Among other provisions, it would prohibit the use of funds provided by the bill to close or realign Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and provide $189 million for Arlington National Cemetery, including funding for its southern expansion. The bill would allow the use of funding for the Veterans Affairs Department Medical Services to reimburse veterans and their spouses for assisted reproductive technology treatments or adoption expenses. It would also prohibit the use of the bill's funds to provide abortions, to implement a September 2022 VA rule that allows abortion counseling and establishes exceptions for the prohibition on abortions in the medical benefits package for veterans and civilian beneficiaries, to provide surgical procedures or hormone therapies for gender-affirming care, and to fly or display a flag over a VA facility or national cemetery that is not the U.S. flag, military-related or another government jurisdiction. As amended, the bill would prohibit the use of the bill's funds to interfere with a veteran's participation in a legal state medical cannabis program, to enforce COVID-19 mask mandates, and to implement the COVID-19 vaccination program for VA health care personnel." (H.R. 4366, <u>Roll Call Vote #380</u>: Passed 219-211: R 219-2; D 0-209; 7/27/23, Peltola Voted Nay; <u>CQ Summary</u>, Accessed 8/3/23)

- **The July 27, 2023 Version Of H.R. 4366 "Allocates Funding For Military Construction, The Department Of Veterans Affairs (VA) And Related Agencies ..."** "House Republicans on Thursday passed their first government funding bill, overcoming an initial hurdle in Speaker Kevin McCarthy's (R-Calif.) attempts to wrangle the GOP conference to approve all 12 appropriations bills amid intense pressure from conservatives to lower spending levels. The bill — which allocates funding for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and related agencies — passed in a 219-211 vote. Two Republicans — Reps. Tim Burchett (Tenn.) and Ken Buck (Colo.) — voted with every Democrat against the measure." (Aris Folley and Mychael Schnell, "House GOP Approves First Government Funding Bill Amid Intense Spending Fight," <u>The Hill</u>, 7/27/23)