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## IN THE SENATE

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 123

## BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ENDORSING THE NEED FOR THE IDAHO DIVISION OF VETERANS SERVICES TO REQUEST FEDERAL GRANTS TO EXPAND THE BOISE VETERANS CEMETERY AND TO FUND THE RENOVATION OF MULTIPLE CATEGORIZED LIFE SAFETY PROJECTS AT THE STATE VETERANS HOMES IN LEWISTON AND POCATELLO.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Idaho is home to more than 122,000 veterans; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 38 CFR the state is obligated to provide for ongoing cemetery maintenance and operation of state veterans homes and cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, there exists a need to expand our beautiful final resting place for Idaho veterans to meet the future needs of southwestern Idaho veterans and their families at the Boise Veterans Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, the federal government shares this belief, and the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Cemetery Grants Program pays 100% of architectural and engineering allowable costs for the expansion of a state veterans cemetery; and

WHEREAS, the state is obligated to provide 10% architectural and engineering matching funds necessary to qualify for federal funding under the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Cemetery Grants Program; and

WHEREAS, the 10% matching funds for the architectural and engineering allowable costs will be reimbursed to the state following grant award; and

WHEREAS, there exists a need to complete multiple categorized life safety projects at the Idaho State Veterans Homes in Lewiston and Pocatello to improve and maintain the quality of care and services provided and ensure the future safety of our veteran residents and their families; and

WHEREAS, the state is obligated to provide and care for its residents in a safe environment that promotes health, maintenance, and enhancement of each resident's quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs' State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program pays up to 65% of the cost of construction and renovation of state nursing home facilities; and

WHEREAS, the state is obligated to provide 35% matching funds necessary to qualify for the State Veterans Home Program federal funding; and

WHEREAS, state leaders have identified the cemetery expansion and veterans home categorized life safety projects as a priority to maintain the quality of services and care the Idaho Division of Veterans Services provides to our Idaho veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that we endorse the need for the Idaho Division of Veterans Services to request federal grants to expand the Boise Vet-

- erans Cemetery and fund the renovation of multiple categorized life safety projects at the State Veterans Homes in Lewiston and Pocatello.