

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0907

July 7, 2014

The Honorable Sloan Gibson  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Gibson:

I wanted to follow up on our recent conversation relating to the Lake Baldwin VA Clinic and medical complex at Baldwin Park, in my District.

Most importantly, I appreciate your commitment to making a decision regarding the currently vacant 120-bed nursing facility and 60-bed domiciliary and the future operation of the clinic at that site. Again, it is my understanding that you have committed to me to making a decision on the fate of the Lake Baldwin VA medical clinic and the currently vacant beds' future within 60 days. Furthermore, I have followed up with VISN 8 Director, Joleen Clark, who is your designated contact for me regarding this matter. In a conversation with her, she has confirmed to me that she will be convening appropriate meetings to resolve this issue.

I was most encouraged by our conversation, as I have had a request into the VA for two years to resolve this matter. I am particularly impressed by your statement, "the last thing I want to do right now is exit a major facility"; as well as your commitment to provide me with a plan for the future use of the Lake Baldwin VA clinic within 60 days. Please know that I will work with you to ensure that our veterans receive the best possible care.

Once again, I would like to strongly encourage that the Lake Baldwin VA facility's resources remain available to provide medical care to our veterans. I know that VA's recent assessment confirms that Florida's veteran population is growing faster than any other state. Currently, the new domiciliary and nursing beds at Lake Nona are already at capacity. Also, the VA itself has publicly stated the need for double the amount of space to properly care for the region's veterans than is being provided at the new Lake Nona VA medical complex.

I appreciate your commitment to resolve this important matter and am confident that by working together we can keep this facility open to meet the current and future medical requirements of our veterans.

With my regards and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,



John L. Mica  
Member of Congress

cc: VISN 8 Network Director, Joleen Clark  
7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Veterans Advisory Task Force  
7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Community Leaders

Congress of the United States  
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April 9, 2014

The Honorable Eric Shinseki  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Ave. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

This year, as we approach the completion of construction of the new veterans' hospital and medical complex at Lake Nona, we would like to request that you consider keeping the existing clinic and medical facilities at Baldwin Park in service to our veterans. This complex is a valuable federal asset that must not sit idle once the new medical center opens.

With an increasing veteran population that is already the second largest in the nation, including those service men and women now returning from overseas conflicts, it is important that we plan now for their future medical care.

In the past, we have encouraged you to consider keeping this medical care facility open. We are now asking that you act soon to ensure that the VA will preserve and utilize this much needed VA property as Florida's veteran population continues to expand.

The recently opened Lake Nona veterans' 120-bed nursing facility and 60 bed domiciliary care unit are already at capacity and the demand for VA services will continue to grow in the Sunshine State.

These men and women who have faithfully served our nation deserve the very best medical care and the taxpayers valuable assets must not sit idle.

We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0907

November 20, 2015

The Honorable Robert A. MacDonald  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20420

Secretary MacDonald,

Thank you for your assistance in helping to keep the clinic and pharmacy at the Lake Baldwin Clinic operational. While this will provide a significant service to Central Florida veterans, I would like to request your aid in expediting the reuse of the additional three floors of the former Naval Hospital building at the Lake Baldwin complex. It is my understanding that the current plan for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor are tentatively designated to facilitate outpatient surgical services. I have also been informed that the top two floors may be made available to provide mental health and Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD) counseling and treatment as well as other special medical services that may be needed. It is important that the Veterans Administration finalize plans for reuse of that facility as soon as possible.

I solicit your cooperation in helping determine the final use of the remaining space in that facility. Moving forward with a firm plan that can be supported by Congress as soon as possible will expedite reuse of valuable VA asset that otherwise would remain vacant.

Thank you again for your assistance in making the Lake Nona Hospital a reality and for your continuing commitment to our nation's veterans. Again, I request your attention to helping us finalize the reuse of the Lake Baldwin VA Complex. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my Veterans Affairs Legislative Assistant, Kevan Stone at (202) 225-4035.

Respectfully,



John L. Mica  
Member of Congress