

March 15, 2018

US Representative Claudia Tenney  
49 Court Street  
Metro Center, Suite 210  
Binghamton, NY 13901

SUBJECT: Concern: Possibility of the Bainbridge VA Clinic Closing

Dear Representative Tenney:

It has been brought to my attention that the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center is considering moving the Bainbridge Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) to Oneonta, New York.

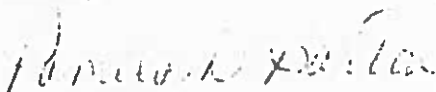
Getting right to the point of why I am sending this letter I want to clearly state that "I OPPOSE ANY FURTHER CONSIDERATION ABOUT MOVING THE BAINBRIDGE VA CLINIC TO ANY OTHER LOCATION. THE CLINIC NEEDS TO STAY RIGHT WHERE IT IS IN BAINBRIDGE, NY."

Following are just a few of the reasons I have become aware of that support the clinic remaining in Bainbridge:

1. The Clinic is already solidly based and operating extremely well in a clean, modern, and easily/regionally accessible facility.
2. The Bainbridge CBOC has been located at its present location since 2009 based on the "Pre-solicitation" that was completed to determine its best regional location and has provided services that are convenient to regional area veterans, providing excellent services. I am aware of no pre-solicitation being conducted to consider moving the clinic.
3. This move consideration appears to have been instituted with absolutely no input from area veterans and does not take into consideration the needs of those veterans unable to travel longer distances to access services.
4. The current facility owner has passed all inspections conducted by independent VA facility inspection teams and maintains all components of the building in an exemplary manner.
5. The reason for making this move is unknown. If there is a concern for space the current owner of the Bainbridge CBOC has made it clear he would be willing to expand space if needed and would even remove his own chiropractic clinic to accommodate the needs of the VA.
6. Moving the clinic would disrupt the current transportation arrangements for veterans already in place.
7. In addition to the adverse effect on the veterans currently using the Bainbridge Clinic, there is a negative economic and employment impact. The current location helps support small rural communities of upstate New York. Consolidating another government run facility in a city further damages economics and jobs in our rural areas. When veterans come to the clinic in Bainbridge they do shop and dine in the local retail businesses and restaurants. Oneonta already enjoys the government benefits of colleges, government offices such as the New York State Employment/Unemployment Office and others that resource the Oneonta area on top of its larger city business and retail climate.

I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter. Should you like to contact me for any additional information please feel free to contact me at the phone number and address listed below.

Sincerely,



Pamela D. Barton, Veteran