

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
Chairman  
Senate Veterans Affairs Committee  
Russell Senate Office Building 412  
Washington D.C., 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr  
Ranking Member  
Senate Veterans Affairs Committee  
Russell Senate Office Building 412  
Washington D.C., 20510

The Honorable Jeff Miller  
Chairman  
House Veterans Affairs Committee  
335 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington D.C., 20515

The Honorable Michael H. Michaud  
Ranking Member  
House Veterans Affairs Committee  
335 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington D.C., 20515

Dear Chairman Sanders, Ranking Member Burr, Chairman Miller, and Ranking Member Michaud:

We commend your efforts to move legislation forward to address the glaring deficiencies the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The resounding support from both the House and Senate shows the importance of restoring trust in the VA's ability to provide the care veterans have earned through their service. As we finalize legislation to increase the availability of care for all veterans, we request that you consider including important provisions to ensure that the 26 clinics authorized by S. 2450 are constructed in the quickest manner possible.

Our veterans' communities have waited for too long for construction and expansion of their local clinic facilities. These extended delays, caused by a CBO scoring change that halted the routine authorization of these clinics, have prevented our veterans from receiving the care they paid for with their service to our country. Currently the timeline for leasing and construction by the VA is open-ended. Further, some clinics have been delayed by GSA's lengthy review of VA leasing practices. We must take this opportunity to set firm timelines and streamline the completion of these clinics government-wide. Therefore, we urge you to include language in the final version of the veterans' legislation to expedite the contract, award and construction processes for all pending VA clinics.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



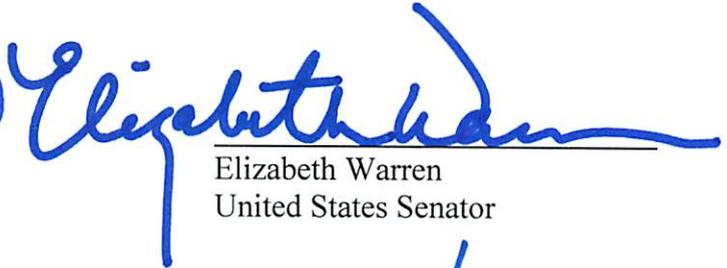
Christopher Murphy  
United States Senator



Bill Nelson  
United States Senator



Claire McCaskill  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



David Vitter  
United States Senator



Tom Harkin  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV, The Honorable Patty Murray, The Honorable Sherrod Brown, The Honorable Jon Tester, The Honorable Mark Begich, The Honorable Richard Blumenthal, The Honorable Mazie Hirono, The Honorable Johnny Isakson, The Honorable Mike Johanns, The Honorable John McCain, The Honorable Tom Coburn, The Honorable Marco Rubio, The Honorable Doug Lamborn, The Honorable Phil. Roe, The Honorable Bill Flores, The Honorable Dan Benishek, The Honorable Mike Coffman, The Honorable Brad Wenstrup, The Honorable Jackie Walorski, The Honorable Corrine Brown, The Honorable Mark Takano, The Honorable Julia Brownley, The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick, The Honorable Tim Walz