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July 14, 2014

The Honorable Sloan D. Gibson
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Acting Secretary Gibson,

It has come to our attention that there are unanswered questions regarding the status of the VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in St. Augustine, Florida. We understand that the facility's lease will end after March 31, 2015, and that a finalized plan for a continuation of services in the St. Augustine area has not been specified. There are over 20,000 veterans in St. Johns County and the local CBOC provides outpatient care to more than 5,000 patients. Specifically, the clinic provides a broad range of general and specialized medical, psychiatric, nursing, women's health, social work, and ancillary services for the primary care patient.

It is our understanding that a Request for Proposal (RFP) has been submitted for a new leased facility and is in the review process at the VA but concerns remain about potential lapsed time between construction of a new facility/interim facility and the end of the lease that could cause interruptions in clinic services. Specifically, is there a plan in place to facilitate a continuation of services if a new facility is not constructed and opened before the end of March?

Separately, we understand that St. Johns County has established new offices that house components of Health and Human Services as well as the County Veteran Services Office. Would using the county's facility, with its centralized location for services, be a suitable option for the VA CBOC to continue quality care for our veterans on either a temporary or permanent basis?

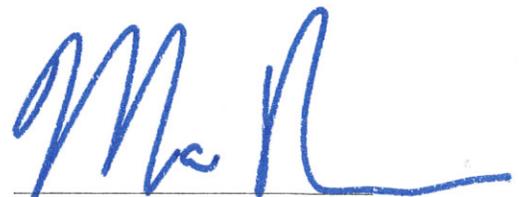
We are committed to ensuring that the veterans served by St. Augustine's VA CBOC are provided uninterrupted services during this transition.

We appreciate your attention to these matters and look forward to the VA's concrete plans to serve our constituents and veterans.

Sincerely,



Ron DeSantis
Member of Congress



Marco Rubio
United States Senator