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May 06, 2021

The Honorable Denis Richard McDonough
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough:

Thank you for visiting Mann-Grandstaff VA Hospital with me on April 28, 2021, and for your swift attention to the concerns raised about the Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM). I believe that the 90-day strategic review will be critical for ensuring the EHRM is successful at Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center and across the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The announcement that the VA will reinstate 24/7 urgent care at Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center was very welcome news. This has been one of my top priorities to help better serve veterans in Eastern Washington for the last 7 years, when services were reduced. Veterans are our nation's heroes, and it is important that we honor their solemn commitment by delivering the gold-standard, timely care they have earned. I respectfully request answers to the following questions regarding the return of 24/7 urgent care at Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center:

1. As staff recruitment has been an issue in the past, what is the timeline for hiring the required staff so that 24/7 urgent care at Mann-Grandstaff can be restored by the end of the year as planned?
2. I understand that another COVID-19 outbreak could disrupt the plan to restore 24/7 urgent care by the end of the year. What metrics will be used to determine if the plan can move forward, keeping public health interests in mind?

Thank you for all you have already done to restore service at the VA as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. I look forward to working with you to improve the lives of veterans and their families. Please feel free to reach out to Matthew Cardenas (Matthew.Cardenas@mail.house.gov) in my office should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

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