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COMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
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June 25, 2026

The Honorable Doug Collins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Collins:

I write to request an update on the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) ongoing efforts for the construction and expansion of new facilities at the Manchester VA Medical Center (VAMC) and to underscore the importance of sustaining the project's momentum through the remainder of this Fiscal Year (FY) and into FY 2027.

As you know, the Administration has indicated its support for this project repeatedly. The President's May 2025 Executive Order directed VA to develop an action plan to "expand services at Manchester," the FY 2027 Presidential Budget Request included funding for those upgrades, and you yourself recently reiterated the Department's commitment to carrying out the project.¹ I appreciate our shared commitment to completing these critical upgrades on the earliest possible timeline.

VA has already begun work on improving the Manchester VAMC. As detailed in the Department's action plan, VA developed a list of near-term actions required to execute the Manchester project as early as November 2025, including establishing an inter-agency agreement with the U.S. Army Corps, actions that predate any FY 2027 appropriations or authorization.

In the case of the Manchester VAMC, the necessary funding is included in the FY 2027 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act that passed the House earlier this year. That legislation provided more than \$2 billion for VA Major Construction projects and recurring expenses, funding that could be put towards implementing the Manchester VA project. The legislation passed the House with wide bipartisan support, after the House adopted an amendment that I offered emphasizing support for the Manchester VAMC improvements.

¹ Sexton, Adam. "VA secretary says upgrades in Manchester remain priority for White House" WMUR, 2 June 2026, <https://www.wmur.com/article/va-secretary-manchester-veterans-medical-center-62/71475079>.

It's clear that your Administration supports the Manchester VAMC improvement project and has already begun working on it. Projects like this are regularly begun by presidential administrations, including yours, once the money has been appropriated. For example, VA started construction to upgrade the St. Louis John Cochran VA Medical Center in Spring 2025. Authorization for that project was only enacted two weeks ago through S. 2393, more than seven months after FY 2026 appropriations were signed into law and more than year after construction began. VA's authority to start construction efforts at Manchester once funding has been appropriated is well established.

Given your Administration's support for these improvements and the necessary funding available in the House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, I urge you to do everything in your power to make this project a reality and begin the improvements as soon as possible following enactment. Please respond no later than July 15 with the current status of the Department's efforts to upgrade the Manchester VAMC and projected next steps once this funding is signed into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Pappas". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress