

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2025

Mr. Douglas Collins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Collins:

We write regarding the Trump Administration's May 9, 2025, Executive Order directing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to conduct a feasibility study and develop an action plan to expand services at the Manchester VA Medical Center (Manchester VAMC), with the goal of establishing a full-service VA hospital in New Hampshire. As you know, New Hampshire remains the only state in the contiguous United States without a full-service VA hospital.

As members of New Hampshire's Congressional delegation, we believe the case for a full-service VA hospital is strong, and the feasibility study and action plan should lead to a clear commitment to establishing one. As such, the Administration and VA must take this effort seriously and give it the rigor, transparency, and resources it deserves. This includes conducting a comprehensive, evidence-based analysis of veteran healthcare needs and access across the state, engaging substantively with federal, state, and local stakeholders, including local Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) and Granite State veterans themselves, and developing a plan that reflects both the data and the real-world challenges New Hampshire veterans face every day.

More than 88,000 veterans call New Hampshire home. While Manchester VAMC and Community-Based Outpatient Clinics provide essential services, and VA's Community Care Network has helped expand access to care, significant gaps remain. These include limited access to specialized care, long travel distances for treatment, and other barriers that a full-service hospital could help to address.

Vermont's White River Junction VA Medical Center has long been a vital resource for New Hampshire veterans, and we deeply value the care it provides. But Granite Staters should not have to cross state lines to receive care that should be available in their home state. Likewise, while Community Care partners continue to be essential in expanding care and are a critical part of veteran healthcare access, issues remain for veterans seeking care. A centralized, full-service VA hospital that integrates primary, specialty, emergency, inpatient, and rehabilitative services would address long-standing gaps and improve care coordination across the state.

With just 30 and 180 days to complete the study and action plan, respectively, it's essential that the Administration and VA work closely with New Hampshire stakeholders from the outset. This process must prioritize and reflect the lived experiences of our veteran community and the practical consequences of not having a full-service hospital in the state. We therefore urge the Administration and VA to treat this not just as an assessment, but an opportunity to provide New Hampshire veterans with the same level of care enjoyed in other states and affirm what we and

many in the veteran community already know: that New Hampshire needs and deserves a full-service VA hospital. We encourage you to work closely with stakeholders at every level, prioritize input from New Hampshire veterans, and build a plan that finally delivers the care and services they have earned through a full-service VA hospital in their own state.

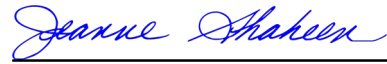
We stand ready to work with you throughout this process to ensure New Hampshire veterans can access the full range of high-quality, accessible care that veterans across the country already receive.

Thank you and we look forward to your response.

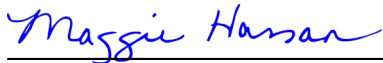
Sincerely,



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress