

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 30, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski  
Vice Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Johnny Isakson  
Chairman  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Reid, Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairwoman Mikulski, Chairman Isakson, and Ranking Member Blumenthal:

We write to urge the authorization of 24 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) major medical facility leases before the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress adjourns. Funding for these leases has already been provided by Congress in previous appropriations acts. These authorizations are necessary to enable VA to deliver vital care and services to veterans across the United States.

A 2012 change in budgetary scoring of VA's major medical leases by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has hampered the authorization of these important leases. Due to the change, the lease authorizations receive large, up-front direct spending scores covering the entire life of the lease, even though actual spending would not increase and the leases are subject to annual appropriations. This scoring issue has prevented Congress from easily authorizing major medical leases for the past three years, affecting 24 facilities across 15 states.

The full list of leases needing authorization is below:

1. Ann Arbor, MI – Outpatient Clinic
2. Birmingham, AL – Outpatient Mental Health Clinic
3. Birmingham, AL – Outpatient Specialty Clinic
4. Boston, MA – Research Space
5. Charleston, SC – Research Space
6. Daytona Beach, FL – Outpatient Clinic
7. Denver, CO – Chief Business Office Purchased Care
8. Gainesville, FL – Outpatient Clinic
9. Hampton Roads, VA – Outpatient Clinic
10. Mission Bay, CA – Research Space
11. Missoula, MT – Outpatient Clinic
12. Northern Colorado, CO – Outpatient Clinic

13. Ocala, FL – Outpatient Clinic
14. Oxnard, CA – Outpatient Clinic
15. Pike County, GA – Outpatient Clinic
16. Portland, ME – Outpatient Clinic
17. Raleigh, NC – Outpatient Clinic
18. Santa Rosa, CA – Outpatient Clinic
19. Corpus Christi, TX – Outpatient Clinic
20. Jacksonville, FL – Outpatient Clinic
21. Pontiac, MI – Outpatient Clinic
22. Rochester, NY – Outpatient Clinic
23. Tampa – FL – Outpatient Clinic
24. Terre Haute, IN – Outpatient Clinic

Veterans in each of these states deserve the timely and quality health care benefits they have earned through their service. As such, we ask that you work to include authorization for these leases in the December funding bill, or another appropriate vehicle, to be signed into law this year. We thank you for your continuing dedication to our nation's veterans and look forward to working with you to ensure their timely access to VA health care. If you have any questions about this request, please contact us directly or have your staff contact Mike Wakefield (Collins) at [REDACTED] or Rosie Heiss (Warner) at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



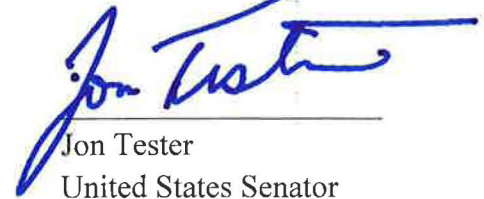
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Cory Gardner  
United States Senator



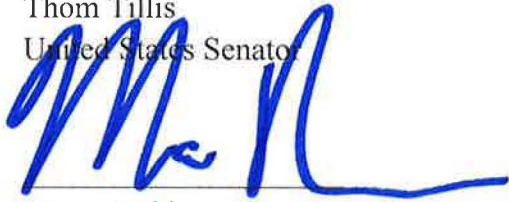
Steve Daines  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



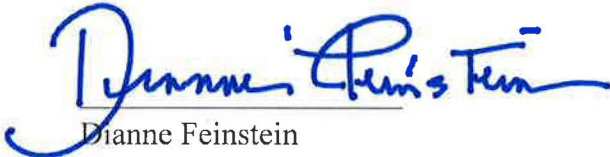
Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



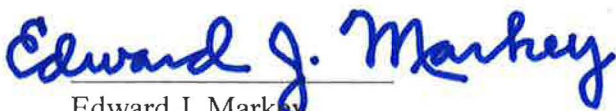
Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



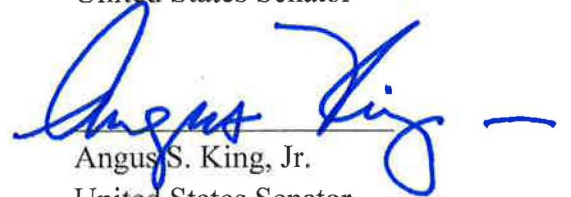
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Richard Burr  
United States Senator



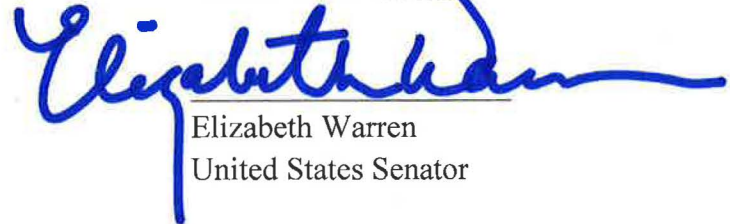
Bill Nelson  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator