

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 26, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on  
Environment and Public Works

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on  
Environment and Public Works

Dear Chair Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse,

We write today to urge your committee to take up and pass a resolution approving of 18 major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which were originally authorized under the *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022*, and now await reapproval by relevant Congressional committees. This tranche of facility prospectuses includes a planned facility in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia, and so we encourage timely action by your committee.

The PACT Act (P.L.117-168) included authorization and initial support funding for thirty-one veterans' medical care and research facilities in nineteen states. In the intervening years from when the VA first calculated cost estimates for these projects, to the time they initiated conversations with local developers, the cost estimates for 18 of the facilities had increased. As such, the VA resubmitted those 18 prospectuses for their reapproval by Congressional committees.

One of these impacted leases is for a new outpatient clinic in Hampton Roads, with a proposed size of 182,230 net usable square feet. This proposed facility would serve a critical need in a high-density region that has increasing demand for VA services. Particularly for those veterans who live on the south side of Hampton Roads – home to more than 60 percent of the patient population at the Hampton VA Medical Center – this clinic would broaden care access, and provide increased services at a location more convenient to many of these veterans.

Those associated with the region are all too familiar with challenges accessing care. The VA acknowledges through its own assessment<sup>1</sup>, that the Hampton VAMC faces many physical challenges, such as frequent flooding and severe access difficulties for a large portion of the veterans it serves due to heavy traffic restricting area patients' access to the VAMC. Hiring and recruitment challenges, in a state and region that are near the top of the list nationally in terms of share of veteran population, have contributed to challenges accessing timely care over the years. Looking forward, the VA estimates that the already sizable enrollee base in the region is expected to grow by upwards of 10 to 15 percent in the coming decades, leading to a patient population that could support *multiple* new VA medical centers and outpatient clinics.

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<sup>1</sup> The Department of Veterans Affairs (2022) *VA Recommendations to the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission* (VISN 06 Market Recommendations) <https://www.va.gov/AIRCOMMISSIONREPORT/docs/VISN06-Market-Recommendation.pdf>

In recognition of the need to streamline the process whereby Congress considers VA facility approvals and remove some the hurdles and delays to their being built, the PACT Act simplified the acquisition process. Under the law, re-approval of this slate of leases would require resolutions of approval by four Committees in Congress: the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. As of our writing of this letter, the Senate Veterans' Affairs and House Transportation and Infrastructure committees have passed resolutions of approval.

We urge your committee to quickly consider and approve these leases. As always we appreciate your attention to these matters, as well as your efforts to conduct oversight and work with the Executive Branch on important matters impacting federal infrastructure. And we share your commitment to ensuring that veterans who have earned these services and care have the facilities needed to access them in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



MARK R. WARNER  
United States Senator



TIM Kaine  
United States Senator