

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2017

Alfred Montoya
Acting Director
Manchester VA Medical Center
718 Smyth Road
Manchester, NH 03104

Dear Director Montoya,

Thank you for your continued work as Acting Director of the Manchester, New Hampshire VA Medical Center (Manchester VAMC). We write to you today to reiterate our concerns about the quality of care provided to women veterans that use the Manchester VAMC.

While we appreciate the work currently underway to repair the sixth floor Women's Health Clinic, we remain concerned that the facilities are inadequately designed in the long term to accommodate women who often are survivors of military sexual trauma (MST) and other mental health disorders. A recent New Hampshire Public Radio article detailed some of these concerns from courageous women like Cindy McGuirk. A Desert Storm veteran, she is a survivor of military sexual assault and is now diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Due to PTSD, riding the small, confined space of the elevator to the sixth floor with men is often a traumatic experience.

We respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs make necessary changes and long term plans to care for women veterans at Manchester VAMC that will compassionately accommodate their unique needs. These changes include:

- Providing a separate entrance for women veterans to access services at the medical center.
- Relocating the Women's Health Clinic either to the first floor or in a separate building on the premises.
- Improving the medical spaces provided for women at the medical center, especially the Women's Health Clinic.

We share with you the common goal of ensuring quality and accessible health care for all New Hampshire veterans. Improving the Women's Health Clinic is an important step toward this goal.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and we look forward to working with you to improve healthcare for our veterans.

Sincerely,



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator