

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4805

April 3, 2024

The Honorable Denis R. McDonough
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough,

I write today on behalf of West Virginia's more than 100,000 veterans—who make up approximately eight percent of our total state population. In particular, I write on behalf of the many aging veterans in the state of West Virginia who require access to long-term care.

In October 2023, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for a long-awaited State Veterans Home in Beckley, West Virginia. Many of my constituents have expressed to me the importance of this new facility, as well as the broader need for long-term care options for West Virginia's aging veterans. Once complete, it will be the second State Veterans Home in our state and the only one serving veterans in southern West Virginia.

I understand that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced it will re-impose construction content requirements that were not a part of the contract or cost estimates for this facility. My understanding is that reintroducing these previously-waived federal requirements for this project would stall ongoing construction and make certain components either far more expensive—or potentially impossible—to purchase.

I urge you to work in cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance and the State of West Virginia to find a path forward in addressing this issue and ensuring that construction of this critical facility remains on time and on budget. Introducing new requirements for a project already underway will only increase taxpayer spending on this project and prevent veterans in southern West Virginia from accessing a much-needed resource.

Thank you for your service on behalf of our nation's veterans. I look forward to viewing your response and learning of your plans to increase coordination with the State of West Virginia on this project.

Sincerely,



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator