

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

evanjenkins.house.gov

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4803**

845 5TH AVENUE  
SUITE 152  
HUNTINGTON, WV 25701  
(304) 522-2201

June 5, 2015

The Honorable Robert A. McDonald  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary McDonald:

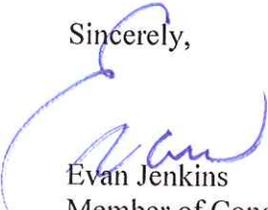
The continued problems and closures of the Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Maxwelton, West Virginia, are unacceptable. West Virginians have a proud and long history serving in the armed forces, with 75 percent of our state's veterans having served during times of conflict. These men and women deserve the benefits they earned, and there cannot be any further delay in implementing a solution for a permanent facility. Relying on the Choice Card program will be sufficient for the time being, but it is not a satisfactory alternative to having a permanent facility in Greenbrier County, West Virginia.

The Greenbrier County CBOC problems all stem from air quality issues, which resulted in the center being closed three separate times in the past year. The CBOC's facility has consistently had formaldehyde levels testing above the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health recommended exposure limit of 0.016 parts per million. As a result of this exposure, CBOC employees reported feeling ill, dizzy, and headaches.

Relying on the Choice Card program will suffice for the very short term, but is not a suitable long-term solution for this problem. The Choice Card program is useful for veterans in my state, but it is a program intended for those who do not live near a VA facility, not as a substitute for shutting down the CBOC facility in Greenbrier County. Since the current location of the facility will reportedly not be reopened, a new facility in a new location nearby needs to be opened – and in a timely matter. There are 1,700 veterans from Fayette, Greenbrier, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, and Summers counties that rely on a bricks-and-mortar clinic and deserve to have access to these services.

I ask you to develop and implement a viable alternative quickly. West Virginia's veterans deserve a permanent facility in Greenbrier County that will allow them to continue receiving care through the Veterans Affairs health system. I look forward to your response and to working with you to solve this issue for the veterans of the Third Congressional District of West Virginia.

Sincerely,



Evan Jenkins  
Member of Congress