

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

May we respectfully request that you have the Department of Veterans Affairs explain to us the decision-making process taken surrounding efforts to bring a potential Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) to Idabel, Oklahoma?

Our former congressional colleague, Representative Dan Boren, wrote into law language instructing a feasibility study to be done for a CBOC in Idabel. On March 23, 2010, the Department stated that Idabel met the criteria in the feasibility study for a CBOC and it would "greatly improve access to care in this area, serve more Veterans, and improve patient satisfaction." It is our understanding, however, that since that time, the Department has reversed its position to build a CBOC in Idabel. Understandably, this reversal is causing frustration to our constituents, and we are now seeking an examination and explanation into your decision-making process.

We also want to express our strong support for the establishment of a CBOC in Idabel for the same reasons stated in your 2010 letter to Congressman Boren; it would increase access to veterans in the area and improve patient satisfaction. It is our request that you contact our offices to schedule a meeting to share the timeline of events from calendar year 2010 until now relating to establishment of a CBOC in Idabel. You may contact Joel Starr at 202-224-4721 and Mark Stwarka at 202-225-2701 to schedule the meeting.

Our Oklahoma community has long been strong supporters of our veterans, and we will continue to advocate for breaking ground at such a facility.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senate



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress