

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0907
July 7, 2014

The Honorable Sloan Gibson
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Gibson:

I wanted to follow up on our recent conversation relating to the Lake Baldwin VA clinic and medical complex at Baldwin Park, in my District.

Most importantly, I appreciate your commitment to making a decision regarding the currently vacant 120 bed nursing facility and 60 bed domiciliary; and future operation of the clinic at that site. Again, it is my understanding that you have committed to me to making a decision on the fate of the Lake Baldwin VA medical clinic and the currently vacant beds' future within 60 days. Furthermore, I have followed up with VISN 8 Director, Joleen Clark, who is your designated contact for me regarding this matter. In a conversation with her, she has confirmed to me that she will be convening appropriate meetings to resolve this issue.

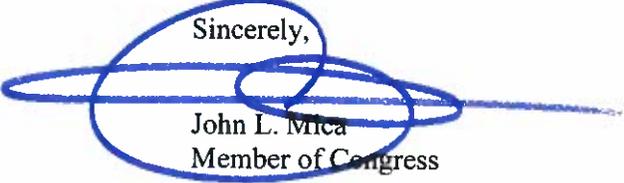
I was most encouraged by our conversation, as I have had a request into the VA for two years to resolve this matter. I am particularly impressed by your statement, "the last thing I want to do right now is exit a major facility"; as well as your commitment to provide me with a plan for the future use of the Lake Baldwin VA clinic within 60 days. Please know that I will work with you to ensure that our veterans receive the best possible care.

Once again, I would like to strongly encourage that the Lake Baldwin VA facility's resources remain available to provide medical care to our veterans. I know that VA's recent assessment confirms that Florida's veteran population is growing faster than any other state. Currently, the new domiciliary and nursing beds at Lake Nona are already at capacity. Also, the VA itself has publicly stated the need for double the amount of space to properly care for the region's veterans than is being provided at the new Lake Nona VA medical complex.

I appreciate your commitment to resolve this important matter and am confident that by working together we can keep this facility open to meet the current and future medical requirements of our veterans.

With my regards and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,



John L. Mica
Member of Congress

cc: VISN 8 Network Director, Joleen Clark
7th Congressional District Veterans Advisory Task Force
7th Congressional District Community Leaders