

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0907

August 10, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

As we complete the Lake Nona Veterans' Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), I would like to request that the Baldwin Park Clinic and building it occupies continue to be utilized for primary, inpatient and domiciliary care for our returning veterans and those other veterans who require this type of care.

In my role as Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I am determined to rein in government waste by addressing the issue of our vacant federal buildings. Many of these buildings sit empty across the nation, costing the U.S. billions of dollars each year. While my committee does not hold jurisdiction over VA facilities, it is my goal to promote the best utilization of federal structures for either generating positive revenue or for essential services like providing care for our veterans.

On Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> I met with Tim Liezert, the Director of the new Orlando VAMC for an update regarding the progress on construction of the new facility. Also in attendance were two local veteran leaders, Jerry Pierce, President of the Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park Foundation, and Tom Walters, President of the Central Florida Veterans Council. During our meeting we discussed the progress of construction at the new Lake Nona VAMC and the future of the Baldwin Park clinic.

Under this plan, the Baldwin Park clinic would continue to provide essential medical and clinical services for the new VAMC including clinical and primary care assistance, lab work, and pharmacy and outpatient services, including mental health care. Because Florida's veteran population continues to expand, it is important to continue these veteran medical services at this facility and for those veterans on the north side of

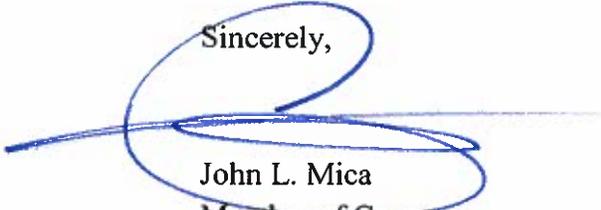
the community so that they can continue to have access to these essential services. I respectfully ask that you give this proposal your full consideration.

The second proposal I am writing to you about is my strong support for maintaining a domiciliary care unit in the remaining portion of the hospital, either by the VA or contract services, that would provide inpatient and domiciliary care for both our returning veterans and those others who are in need of this type of care. According to an August, 1995 GAO report, "The former Naval Hospital's 153 beds could be used to meet the VA's service goals for veterans in East Central Florida." If implemented, this action would also provide transitional care for our returning veterans and ensure the maximum utilization of space at the Baldwin Park facility. I respectfully request that this proposal be part of your final decision in the space utilization of the Baldwin Park VA site after the Lake Nona complex is complete.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that our veterans receive the best medical care possible and once again respectfully request that you consider these proposals.

With my regards and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,



John L. Mica  
Member of Congress