

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

July 22, 2015

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

Dear Secretary McDonald,

The more than 65,000 veterans in my district are frustrated by the amount of time it has taken to correct the internal plumbing issues at the Veterans Hospital in Wilmington, North Carolina. So am I.

Unfortunately, this state-of-the-art facility has not been fully operational since March. Veterans who need treatment from the dental, urology, and GI departments have been required to find care at a non-VA facility in the community or drive a long distance to the Fayetteville VA Hospital.

Though I recognize the agency faces many challenges, the amount of time it has taken to fix this issue is simply unacceptable. Our veterans have made many sacrifices and they deserve the best care possible at a facility that is within a reasonable distance.

My office has been in communication with Director Goolsby and her office as well as the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight since this issue surfaced. Appropriately, the Subcommittee on Oversight is looking into this matter to determine why it has taken the Wilmington VA so long to find an acceptable solution.

I am also concerned about the reported expense associated with the lease of this facility. I respectfully request that the Veterans Administration provide my office with a copy of the lease agreement between the VA and the Wilmington facility owned and operated by Summit Smith HealthCare of Wisconsin. I understand the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight has also requested the lease agreement to get a better understanding of the monthly expenses. Thank you in advance for providing the Subcommittee, as well as my office, with the information requested.

I am sure you agree that our veterans deserve better. They should not be forced to drive long distances or wait for months to receive essential health care, and we should not be paying more for this facility than fair market price. I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter, and please don't hesitate to let me know if there is anything that we can do to assist you as you and the Department work to resolve this.

Sincerely,

