

BRADLEY BYRNE  
1ST DISTRICT, ALABAMA

SERVING BALDWIN, CLARKE,  
ESCAMBIA, MOBILE, MONROE AND  
WASHINGTON COUNTIES

HOUSE COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE  
NATURAL RESOURCES

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

Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2015

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

Dear Secretary McDonald:

As I am sure you are aware, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Community Based Outpatient Clinic located in Mobile, Alabama, is old and outdated. The VA has committed on multiple occasions to address this issue, but too much time has passed without any real action taking place.

Most recently, an article was written in a local news publication, Lagniappe, which detailed the delays and potential cost increases faced by the VA in order to continue operating out of the facility where they are now located. The University of South Alabama (USA) owns the facility and says the VA told them several years ago of their plans to move locations. Amazingly enough, that still has not happened.

USA made plans of its own to relocate its operations to a newer facility, and as a result, the costs of keeping the current location open have multiplied. The taxpayer is now left on the hook for exorbitant increases in leasing costs due to the VA's own bureaucratic delay. Most importantly, our local veterans continue to be forced to visit old and outdated facilities that don't even meet the minimum standard for care at other hospitals in our community.

I have reached out myself to your staff on this issue and was told that due to Federal Acquisition Regulations the details of the move to a new facility were strictly confidential. While I understand your need to keep parts of the procurement process private, I hope you can understand my frustration with these delays.

I hope you will take the time to look into this situation. Our veterans deserve better, and I plan to do all I can to make sure they are treated fairly. The VA continues to face many obstacles as it moves through a much needed reform process, and I recognize how difficult this must be for your agency. But, we must not lose sight of the needs of our veterans. Expediting the move to a new facility in Mobile is of the utmost importance to our community. We simply cannot afford to continue waiting for the VA to get its act together.

Thank you for your time. I hope you will look into this situation and keep my office apprised of any updates to the current status.

Sincerely,



BRADLEY BYRNE  
Member of Congress