

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 6, 2023

The Honorable Denis McDonough
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough,

I write to urge the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to prioritize the construction of the Fremont VA Clinic and reevaluate the facility for a second primary care team. The Fremont VA Clinic is not expected to open until Fiscal Year 2025 and is expected to include just one primary care team.

The VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System (ECHCS) is currently in the process of rebuilding the strategic plans for the Aurora and Castle Rock Clinics. These two facilities are larger and require more staff time to complete, which prevents any work from beginning on the strategic plan for Fremont VA Clinic. It is my understanding that these delays prevent the VA from finalizing work on the Fremont VA Clinic, preventing it from opening sooner than Fiscal Year 2025.

Veterans who live in Fremont County and the surrounding region are in desperate need for additional health care assistance. There are an estimated 3,500 veterans living in Cañon City and Florence which puts the clinic close to the threshold rating of two primary care teams. If unincorporated parts of Fremont County are included, there are estimated to be as many as 5,000 total eligible veterans. This would push the clinic over the threshold for a second primary care team.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this request in accordance with all applicable rules, regulations, laws, and guidelines.

Sincerely,



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress