

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

March 10, 2022

Michael Tadych
Executive Director
VA Puget Sound Health Care System
1660 South Columbian Way
Seattle, WA 98108

Dear Mr. Tadych:

Last fall, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) closed its contracted clinic in Chehalis, WA that served 3,500 veterans. Over the years VA closed other clinics in Washington state and, at times, opened new clinics based on changes in demographics and costs. Ultimately, VA must get care to veterans when and where they need it. To understand the impact on veterans in Southwest Washington, I ask that you provide responses to the following questions:

1. Since the closure of the Chehalis clinic, how many veterans who previously used the Chehalis clinic have received primary care, specialty care, and urgent care from each of the remaining VA clinics in Washington? How many have received care through the Community Care Network?
2. What medical outreach strategies, such as mobile medical units, does VA Puget Sound utilize to reach veterans in Southwest Washington? How does VA notify veterans of the availability of such outreach options?
3. Does VA Puget Sound have sufficient resources, including staff, to ensure veterans in Southwest Washington receive care in a timely manner?
4. What additional resources are needed to ensure veterans in Southwest Washington region have timely access to high-quality care?

As VA prepares to announce its recommendations in the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission process, the Department must keep the needs of veterans in underserved rural areas in mind. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to continuing to work together to fulfill the promise we make to our veterans to ensure they have access to the benefits and care they have earned.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator