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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0911

September 23, 2010

Ms. Nancy Resissener
Acting Director, Haley VA
James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital
13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33612

Dear Ms. Reissener,

Thank you for all of your efforts to date regarding the siting of a Veterans Administration health clinic at the Fort Homer Hesterly Armory. Since our meeting at the Haley VA Center a few weeks ago and our telephone conversation earlier this week, I followed up with the Adjutant General Emmett R. Titshaw, Jr. of Florida National Guard to encourage the National Guard to move as expeditiously as possible on the lease of the Amory to VA.

West Tampa is a logical and an important location for a primary health clinic due to the number of veterans in the neighborhood. I was visiting an older veteran in his West Tampa home this week, and he explained how the trips to Bay Pines in St. Petersburg and Haley in Tampa have become more difficult over the years. Veterans need an easily accessible health clinic in the heart of Tampa, in a neighborhood where they are so proud of their service to the country. There is no better way to demonstrate how much we value the contributions of our veterans than to ensure that they can easily access medical services and checkups in their community.

I will continue to encourage the city of Tampa to act upon the "planned development" zoning as soon as possible. Tampa councilman Charlie Miranda and Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio are committed to assisting us as we move forward.

Your leadership has been outstanding. The other initiatives at the Haley VA Center also are proceeding well. I look forward to your updates and those from Dr. Ed Cutolo and Dr. Steven Scott. Accessible health care to our veterans, who have so courageously served their nation, is an imperative.

Sincerely,



Kathy Castor
U.S. Representative
Florida - District 11