

February 10, 2015

Director Kenneth Mizrach
VA New Jersey Health Care System
East Orange VA Medical Center
385 Tremont Avenue
East Orange, NJ 07018-1023

Dear Director Mizrach:

I am writing to express my support for the establishment of a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Sussex County, New Jersey. The proposed CBOC will provide veterans living in Sussex, Warren, and Western Morris County better access to quality care.

As you know, my office has kept a close watch on developments concerning veterans receiving VA health and medical care throughout New Jersey. As you are also aware, I strongly supported the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, which President Obama signed into law on August 7, 2014 addressing, among other provisions, veterans access to care.

I understand that on October 2014, a Veterans Roundtable was held at Sussex County Community College in Newton, New Jersey, which was attended by Congressman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Frank Quadrino of the VA New Jersey Health Care System, various Veteran Service Organizations, and New Jersey veterans. During this event, several veterans indicated their health and medical concerns were not being adequately met and requested increased access to services. Several veterans stated that they travel in excess of 40 miles to receive care.

I understand there is widespread support for establishing a VA CBOC in Sussex County, New Jersey including, the County of Sussex, which adopted a resolution supporting the CBOC, American Legion Post 132, VFW Post No. 10152, Vietnam Veterans of America and other VSO's and veterans. It is my strong belief that a VA CBOC in Sussex County will help to fill a gap in service among New Jersey's Sussex, Warren and Western Morris County veteran community. I am aware that the VA New Jersey Health Care System is currently participating in a nationwide VA Integrated Planning Initiative and that this 14-month review will assess future demand, including gaps in service. I would like to see this assessment take into consideration the distances veterans in Sussex, Warren, and Morris travel to receive medical care. I respectfully urge you to give their request your prompt consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss the issue further.

Sincerely,

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator