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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1404

June 6, 2008

The Honorable James B. Peake, M.D.  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Peake:

Thank you for your dedication to the mission of serving our nation's veterans. In the spirit of that mission, I am writing to inquire about the status of the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System (VANIHCS) - Fort Wayne Campus. I understand that the 2004 CARES decision was to close the acute care section and maintain the outpatient care section at Fort Wayne. Further, there was an additional study to examine the inpatient care at the facility, without the consideration of the outpatient care at the facility. I would strongly urge you to complete an analysis of the outpatient and inpatient care services before drawing conclusions and justified recommendations for the Fort Wayne Campus hospital that devotedly serves our nation's veterans.

The VA Northern Indiana Health Care System - Fort Wayne Campus has been improving the health of the men and women who have so proudly served our nation since 1950. The Fort Wayne campus provides acute medical and surgical services, as well as primary care, medical and surgical specialty care and mental health clinics. It also offers programs for the treatment of disorders, such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Substance Abuse Treatment Program. The facility also has an Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom case manager assigned to the new returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan to ensure their transitions back to civilian life are as seamless as possible.

The continued operation of the Fort Wayne Campus is essential to providing coordinated, compassionate and comprehensive quality primary care, mental health services and extended care to 36,000 of the region's 160,000 veterans in a timely, accessible and cost effective manner. Without this facility, there is only one other facility in Indianapolis available for veterans in Indiana.

In conclusion, I urge you to continue your efforts in completing an assessment of the Fort Wayne VA Hospital's outpatient and inpatient services. I am optimistic that it will remain a fully operating facility for our veterans who have so proudly served our nation.

Sincerely,



Evan Bayh  
United States Senator