



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

November 5, 2013

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

This is in response to your cosigned letter requesting an update on the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) progress towards addressing access issues in northern New Hampshire.

White River Junction VA Medical Center (VAMC) recently initiated a comprehensive review to assess its ability to meet Veterans Health Administration patient access standards for the VA New England Healthcare System's northern market (Vermont and New Hampshire). As a result, facility leadership is currently working on an access plan for their entire catchment area to ensure access standards are met. Options under active consideration for this plan include promoting telehealth technology partnerships, as well as establishing a health contract agreement with Androscoggin Valley Hospital to better serve Veterans in the North Country.

White River Junction VAMC remains committed to ensuring access to health care for all Veterans in its catchment area, which includes portions of northern New Hampshire. As part of this effort, the VAMC Director, Ms. Deborah Amdur, and members of her staff have made several recent trips to Coos County, New Hampshire, and will continue to seek opportunities to better serve local Veterans. White River Junction and Manchester VAMC leadership are available to meet with you and your staff to share plans and seek further input.

If you have additional questions, please have a member of your staff contact Mr. Aakash Bhatt, Congressional Relations Officer, at (202) 461-6444 or by e-mail at Aakash.Bhatt@va.gov. A similar letter has been sent to the cosigners of your letter.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Eric K. Shinseki", is positioned above the printed name.

Eric K. Shinseki