

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1011

May 8, 2023

The Honorable Shereef Elnahal
Under Secretary for Health
Veterans Health Administration
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Under Secretary Elnahal,

I write to request that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) establish a Women's Health Center of Excellence (COE) at the VA Augusta Health Care System in Augusta, Georgia.

VA Centers of Excellence are crucial to providing our veterans specialized care to specific populations, and Georgia's women veterans deserve world-class care to support their unique healthcare needs. Georgia is home to nearly 93,000 women veterans and the greater Augusta area specifically is home to over 66,000 veterans and many military families. As the proportion of women in the veterans population continues to grow it is crucial that they have access to specialized care.

The creation of a VA Women Center of Excellence in Georgia would provide these veterans with access to specialized medical care, and veterans everywhere would benefit from the research, training, and development of best practices that Centers of Excellence provide.

Moreover, the Augusta community is just the place to locate such a center. With a growing veteran community, the Augusta VA has been working diligently to increase their services to women, acquiring two mammography machines in order to increase diagnostic screenings. Designation as a Women's Health Center of Excellence will build on these efforts and improve outcomes for women veterans throughout Georgia and nationwide.

Those who have borne the battle and endured danger and hardship — at the expense of their safety, health, and time with their loved ones — have earned the gratitude and support of our Nation. Our women veterans are esteemed members of this community. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RIGHTS AND THE LAW