



DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
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The Honorable Jon Ossoff
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ossoff:

Thank you for your most recent letter dated November 12, 2025, concerning reports that the Defense Health Agency (DHA) intends to consider major changes to resourcing at Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center (DDEAMC) at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

There are significant pressures on the Defense Health Program for Fiscal Year 2026 and beyond. The Department as a whole is undertaking a comprehensive review of where to optimally assign its military medical personnel in order to achieve the best outcomes in quality, safety and readiness of the force and is working with the Military Departments to mitigate access to care and capacity challenges.

In some instances, military communities may have more military medical providers available to serve patients, while other communities will have access to community-based providers in the TRICARE network. This review is still ongoing, however, and decisions on alternative courses of action have not been completed. The lapse in appropriations delayed our discussions with stakeholders and we anticipate decisions internally this winter.

Given this as background, it is premature for the DHA to address your detailed and thoughtful questions one by one. Please rest assured that we will continue to keep Congress and our beneficiaries well-informed of any changes to requirements once evaluations are complete. Finally, the DHA has established standard processes and complies with the requirements in section 1073d(f) in Title 10, U.S. Code, which requires Congressional notification prior to making any changes in services at DHA military medical treatment facilities.

Thank you for your interest in the Military Health System and continued support of DDEAMC. The DHA is proud to serve our Nation's military heroes and their families and is committed to providing them the best possible health care.

Sincerely,

David J. Smith, M.D.
Acting Director