

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 4, 2026

The Honorable Keith Bass
Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs
Department of Defense
400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Vice Admiral Darin Via, USN
Director
Defense Health Agency
7700 Arlington Blvd
Suite 5101
Falls Church, VA 22042

Dear Mr. Bass and Admiral Via,

Eighteen days have passed since the deadline stated in our letter seeking more information about DHA's decision to close all inpatient services at Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center (DDEAMC) and transition the facility to an ambulatory care center, and we have not received a response.

This is unacceptable. In just over a month, the 180-day moratorium following Congressional notification expires, and modifications to Eisenhower Army Medical Center can begin. Servicemembers, their families, and veterans in Augusta deserve answers and information on how these potential changes could affect their ability to receive quality healthcare.

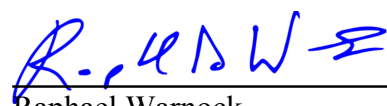
Until more information and clarification is received on this decision, and its potential consequences, DHA must immediately rescind Congressional notification for modification of services at DDEAMC. Below, we reiterate the questions you have yet to answer:

1. Why did DHA submit a Congressional notification affirming that two hospitals in the area could meet demand without first consulting with hospitals in the Augusta area?
 - a. Please describe the analysis DHA undertook to come to the determination that the Augusta medical network would be able to meet the demand of beneficiaries from DDEAMC seeking inpatient care, in preparation for the Congressional notification submitted in March
 - b. Following your meetings with local Augusta medical facilities in May, please provide a full report on DHA's assessment that Augusta's existing medical community could accommodate an influx of beneficiaries served by DDEAMC, if inpatient services ceased at the hospital. Please include the following:
 - i. An analysis of current wait times, for consultation and for completion of care, for inpatient services at every local medical facility in Augusta that DHA reviewed in accordance with any potential plans, and how these current wait times would be impacted by the influx of beneficiaries from DDEAMC.

- ii. A cost assessment for average cost of care for beneficiaries at DDEAMC compared to seeking care in the Augusta community.
 - iii. A summary of any insights provided by leaders of other Augusta medical facilities during any discussions DHA had with Augusta medical community about their ability and capacity to serve an influx of patients.
 - iv. The number of times, since the beginning of 2025, hospitals in Augusta were on divert for inpatient services at the same time. Please include the number of times patients who needed transfers from DDEAMC were unable to be transferred to an Augusta hospital and at which hospital they ended up receiving care.
 - v. Any estimated costs beneficiaries who seek care in the local community would incur, including any co-pays, for inpatient services.
2. Based on recent information provided to Sen. Ossoff's office by DHA, please explain the decision to move the sponsoring institution from Eisenhower Army Medical Center to the Medical College of Georgia, beginning on July 1st, 2026.
 - a. Have any graduate students or medical residents permanently or temporarily left DDEAMC in the past year, and for what reasons?
 - b. Please provide an explanation for how any reorganization of graduate medical programs at DDEAMC, done before the 180-days, would be made in compliance with 10 U.S.C. § 1073d(f).
3. In a briefing paper to Congress May 2025, Naval Hospital Jacksonville was amongst four military treatment facilities at which DHA proposed closing inpatient services and transitioning to an ambulatory care center. However, in the March Congressional notification, NH Jacksonville was absent from this list which only included the other three previously listed military treatment facilities, including DDEAMC. We welcome this decision but are seeking more information on how this decision was made. Please explain why Naval Hospital Jacksonville was dropped from consideration for descoping?
 - a. Please provide a comparative analysis that illustrates the decision to remove NH Jacksonville, from this final list, but still include Eisenhower Army Medical Center.

Sincerely,


Jon Ossoff
United States Senator


Raphael Warnock
United States Senator