

SANDY ADAMS  
24TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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COMPETITION, AND THE INTERNET

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March 1, 2012

Hon. Jeff Miller  
Chairman  
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
335 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller,

As you are well aware, the Veterans Administration (VA) recently announced a major delay in the construction of the Orlando Veterans Hospital, located in my congressional district. After years of waiting, a growing and aging veteran population is now being forced to wait even longer for the care they deserve.

The primary responsibility of any government is to protect its people. The best way to do this is by having a strong all-volunteer military, one that has confidence in the VA that their service-connected medical needs will be taken care of after their military service is complete. More importantly, they should not be burdened by having to worry about the mismanagement of their most basic health needs. As Members of Congress, it is our responsibility to ensure that our men and women in uniform are taken care of, and it is one we take very seriously.

The American people were told that for \$665 million, they would receive a state of the art medical facility to care for the hundreds of thousands of veterans in Central Florida. The Orlando VA has the second highest number of active patients in the country, seeing nearly 89,000 people a year. This project is desperately needed in our community and our veterans cannot wait any longer, nor can hard working taxpayers afford more expensive delays. This hospital represents a promise to the hundreds of thousands of warriors who have come home expecting to have the care they deserve, when they need it. A promise that is now uncertain due to the significant delays in hospital construction.

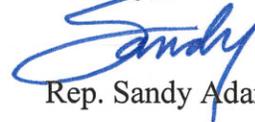
I am aware that you have personally toured the construction site and have met with both the contractors involved, as well as Veterans Administration officials. While others in the delegation have contacted the VA individually, I would like to request that your Committee help convene a briefing from VA officials for the entire Central Florida delegation about these delays. This meeting would give Members the opportunity to hear firsthand the cause of the

delays and provide a forum for Members to question VA officials as to their plans for moving the construction process forward so they can begin caring for Central Florida veterans.

Additionally, because it is the responsibility of the Congress to provide the oversight necessary to bring the best care to our constituents, I would also request that you consider holding a hearing in your Committee to examine the status of ongoing major VA construction projects, like the Orlando hospital, from around the nation. Such a hearing would hopefully provide best practices for how to successfully complete such projects in the future, avoiding delays like we have seen in Orlando, while giving Congress insight as to how we can best help the VA in their efforts to mitigate this extensive delay.

America's veterans have served our nation honorably. They shed blood and selflessly sacrificed time with their families. They put their country first so that all of us might have a more prosperous future. After all they have given to our country; we expect that the people in the VA who are responsible for this project will ensure the promises that have been made to our veteran community in Florida are fulfilled. Thank you for your attention to these requests; I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Rep. Sandy Adams