

June 24, 2025

To the honorable Maggie Goodlander.

As an active service officer with a chartered veterans organization. I deal with New Hampshire veterans every day. From every conflict from WWII, Korea, and VietNam to present, We ask our veterans a great deal and they and their families have sacrificed a great deal on behalf of our nation!

Our Nation made a promise to all that served and the Veterans Administration should treat each state those veterans live in equally.

It imposes great difficulties and stress to those who must travel out of state to either Boston (with all of the added stress of not only traffic, distance, and cost) and White River Junction (distance) to be taken care of. This is also a great hardship for their families, many times they cannot be part of the veterans treatment be it because of distance or cost of transportation. We vowed as a Nation to take care of those who have borne the battle. They deserve and have earned this care.

Community care is not the answer! It works sometimes but more often than not the veteran does not feel the acceptance, understanding, or comfort and acceptance with civilian practitioners. Especially if the veteran is dealing with PTSD, MST, or prolonged, or, regular exposure to hazardous chemicals, or activities. How can a civilian practitioner understand this? Furthermore our culture makes it almost impossible for a veteran to be honest about what they have gone through in the service to our nation,

Our service changes all of us in ways to numerous to go into detail here, in many ways good, but in many, many more very badly. Most civilians cannot understand our experience and because of this many times what the veteran needs most goes untreated.

Our present hospital is showing not only its age but its inability to take care of those who have risked so much for our nation, It has had two major floods that had hampered its ability to serve our veterans properly, They are still trying to recover from the last one.

Our veteran population that depends on the VA has increased dramatically since the PACT Act was passed.

So I urge you on the behalf of every veteran to endorse this new VA Hospital.

Thank you!

Richard Borrazas, US Coast Guard Veteran and current service officer