



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

November 9, 2023

The Honorable Garret Graves  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Graves:

Thank you for your September 8, 2023, letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) requesting that VA extend the Request for Proposal period for a new Outpatient Clinic (OPC) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I appreciate the opportunity to respond on behalf of the Department.

On November 21, 2022, VA published the Baton Rouge Pre-Solicitation Notice, also referred to as an Expression of Interest, with all responses due back to VA no later than December 15, 2022. The notice included VA's site requirements, instructions on how to respond and an established delineated area. This notice sought to identify potential locations capable of meeting VA's space requirement and determine how best to satisfy the lease requirement in the most competitive manner.

On July 11, 2023, VA published the Request for Lease Proposals (RLP) for the new Baton Rouge OPC with initial offers due no later than August 28, 2023, and subsequently extended the offer due date to September 8, 2023. VA granted this extension prior to the initial due date and allowed offerors additional time to develop their proposals. In response, VA received an impressive number of proposals resulting in ample competition within the established delineated area.

Although the proposal due date has passed and the procurement's evaluation phase is underway, re-opening and extending the offer due date in response to the RLP would unduly lengthen the timeline to deliver the building to Veterans. Additionally, any further delay is unwarranted considering the number of viable proposals VA has already received.

Should you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact Ms. Amanda Neumann, Congressional Relations Officer, at 202-957-2170 or [Amanda.Neumann@va.gov](mailto:Amanda.Neumann@va.gov).

Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia L. Ross".

Patricia L. Ross  
Assistant Secretary for Congressional  
and Legislative Affairs