

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2005

Mr. Chuck Dorman
Director
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
Department of Veterans Affairs
11301 Wilshire Boulevard, Building 500
Los Angeles, California 90073-1003

Dear Mr. Dorman:

I am writing regarding the recent closure of the Consolidated Outpatient Pharmacy (CMOP) at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (GLAHS). I want to raise the concerns I have heard from a number of CMOP employees and ask that you accommodate them as much as possible.

As you know, the closure of the CMOP at GLAHS has been designated as a "transfer of function" rather than a "reduction in force." As a result, the CMOP employees have not been afforded the opportunities and benefits, such as early retirement, retraining, or other arrangements possible under a reduction in force process.

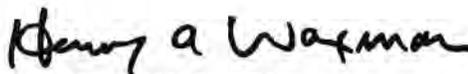
The CMOP staff consists of a number of dedicated long-term VA employees who have been with GLAHS or the VA system for much of their career. Older career federal employees have expressed concern about the financial hardship of relocating to the new CMOP in Arizona only to retire in a few years. Other CMOP staff who are not close to retirement have also expressed a strong desire to continue to work at GLAHS. I am hopeful that GLAHS can absorb as many of these employees as possible in its vast facilities and would appreciate your giving every consideration to those who request to remain employed at GLAHS.

I understand that the VA has given some consideration to keeping the CMOP operating as a satellite office for the new CMOP in Arizona or as a pharmacy with fewer automated features. These are constructive options that could help retain expertise and ease the transition.

I appreciate your consideration of my request and hope that you will be able to assist the CMOP staff seeking to remain employed within the GLAHS setting. I look forward to hearing from you.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress