JOSH HARDER 9TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

209 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUM DING WASHINGTON, DC 20515 (202) 225–4540-PHONE (202) 225-3402-FAX 1776 WEST MARCH LANE SUITE 360 STOCKTON, CA 95207 (209) 579-5458-PHONE

(209) 702-6569-FAX HARDER.HOUSE.GOV

September 28, 2023

Denis McDonough Secretary Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Ave NW, Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough,

I write today to express my concern and frustration regarding the primary care physician (PCP) shortage at the Stockton VA Clinic. I strongly urge you to prioritize filling the four vacant PCP positions immediately.

In May of this year, I was alerted to a fifty percent reduction in the number of primary care physicians seeing and treating patients at the Stockton VA Clinic For the last four months, my office has worked with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to find a solution to fill those staff openings, but no sizable progress has been made.

Earlier this month, I hosted a town hall in my District and made sure to include representatives from VA Northern California, so as to ensure our veterans had an opportunity to make their voices heard. Veterans who rely on the Stockton Clinic for their care have been forced to wait over 90 days for an appointment and when they are able to get an appointment, the clinic cancels said appointment at the last minute due to "limited capabilities". The stories and cases that were shared during this town hall were heartbreaking, and it is highly concerning that this is the reality of health care for veterans in my community. Veterans shared their stories of having to forgo having their prescriptions refilled because they cannot get access to their providers to authorize a refill. This is unacceptable.

Attached to this letter are nearly 50 signed petitions from veterans who attended my town hall. They are pleading for your help to fix this crisis. The local VA staff at the clinic are doing everything they can to serve our veterans with the limited resources they have, but we need you to do more. We need additional resources at the Stockton VA Clinic. The brave men and women who fought for our freedom should not have to fight for the basic health care they deserve and was promised to them.

I urge you to prioritize filling these PCP vacancies immediately.

Sincerely,

Josh Harder

Member of Congress

CC

September 8, 2023

Secretary McDonough,

As a resident of San Joaquin County, I am deeply concerned about the pressing and ongoing physician shortage at the Stockton VA Clinic. Earlier this year, the clinic experienced a fifty percent reduction in its full-time, on-site primary care physicians. Veterans are falling through the cracks due to canceled appointments and long wait times.

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Our veterans deserve the best health care we can provide. With that in mind, I request that you prioritize filling the remaining four full-time, on-site physician positions at the Stockton VA Clinic as soon as possible.

Sincerely

Name

Address

This petition is supported by:





VFW Manteca Post 6311 American Legion Karl Ross Post 16

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LODI CA 95240

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Sincerely,

Henry Brycent

Address

This petition is supported by:





Henry Brywat 1471 Orgallo Laue, Mautton, CA 95337

> VFW Manteca Post 6311 American Legion Karl Ross Post 16

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Sincerely,

Name

V.F.W. POST #6311 P. O. BOX 2161 MANTECA. CA 95336

Address

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Sincerely,		
Name		GARCIA

Address 1047 GLADIOLA PL. MANTERA GA. 95336

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Sincerely

Mama

Address

Escalar CA 95320

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Sincerely,

Name

Address

This petition is supported by:

Carol Bradley



UNITED VETERANS COUNCIL SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

VFW Manteca Post 6311 American Legion Karl Ross Post 16

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Dr. Shereef Elnahal Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration Department of Veterans Affairs

Montece, Ca. 95336

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Sincerely

Name /

Manteca CA 95337

Holy BROWN-LaBrado

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UNITED VETERANS COUNCIL SAN JOAGUIN COUNTY

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Sincerely,

Name
426 N. Powers Aup

Address

This petition is supported by:

John Coldren

Manley CA 95334





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Sincerely,

Name
9164 Barbaresco Circle

Stockton, CA 95212

Eric Whealock

Address

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Sincerely,

Jorge A. Altanirano

Stockforn, CA 95209

Address

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Sincerely,

Name

230 W Machalia

Address Stockton 95263

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(Kenneth of Stolls

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9959 Zwen View Stile Stock

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CYNTHIA BOYD



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Sincerely,

Name

Address

This petition is supported by:





VFW Manteca Post 6311 American Legion Karl Ross Post 16

CC

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Mama

741 E street

Tracy Ca 25376

Address

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315 Cowell AV-e MANTERA CD 95336

Address

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SAL Nieosia Name 15515 Sunyer Home PR

Address

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4140 E 414 ST

STOCKTON CA. 95215

Address

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Sincerely,

HI CLARK
Name
Stockton CA

45206

Address

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LAMES AKERS

Name

4524 LINDSEY LANE

TRACY CA. 95337

Address

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983 SAN MIGUEL PLACE, Manteca

Tuda S. Rodelis

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Name

RAYHOND M RODGERS, JR 983 SANMIGHEZ PLACE, MANTEZA

Address

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Name

435 Fawn CT

Jim Kottinger

MANTECA, CA 95336

Address

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Name

MANTECA, CA 95336

Address

209-824-0174

This petition is supported by:

Robert Serpa 1941 QG MAIL. COM.





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Blut E. Well 3707 FARMINGTON ROTH

Address SIKN, CA. 95215 This petition is supported by:





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Name

Address

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Edward Dorsey

LATHROP Callforna 95350



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Name

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Julia Simon





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ETHANK SARINA

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Name

15851 DERBY LANE

LATHROP 95330

Address

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15883 DERBY LW.

ose C. aveno

Address

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