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JACOB C. ASHBY  
Assemblyman 107<sup>th</sup> District

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June 2, 2021

Darlene A. Delancey, Executive Director  
VA Health Care Upstate New York  
Samuel S. Stratton VA Medical Center  
113 Holland Avenue  
Albany, NY 12208

Cc: Senator Charles Schumer, Rep. Paul Tonko, Rep. Antonio Delgado

Dear Executive Director Delancey:

The purpose of this letter is to request the immediate reversal of the decision to close the Troy Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

This facility serves over 1,000 Veterans each year who rely on it to deliver their primary care. **These Veterans are now being told that they must change facilities, adjust to new doctors and travel out of County or even out of State for outpatient services.** This is not acceptable – especially when considering the high usage of the facility.

The CBOCs were created to promote ease of access for Veterans and the Troy CBOC is an example of the program's success. The success of the Troy CBOC makes the decision to close even more disheartening as throughout the lead-up, announcement and subsequent explanation of the decision the only reason cited was that the VA could save money related to the cost of leasing the building. We are hopeful that an organization boasting a nearly \$250 billion budget is not risking the continuity, ease and overall quality of care for our Veterans for questionable financial savings. Furthermore, the VA will now be responsible for increased transportation costs for the over 1,000 Veterans who utilize the Troy CBOC – dramatically reducing any perceived savings.

The Troy Community Based Outpatient Clinic is an essential service for many residents of Rensselaer County and the closure of the facility will have an immediate and direct negative impact on the health of numerous Veterans. We ask again that you reconsider this decision and continue to maintain the Troy CBOC and the important services it provides our community.

Jake Ashby  
Assemblyman

Neil Breslin  
Senator

Daphne Jordan  
Senator

John McDonald  
Assemblyman