

JOHN McCAIN  
ARIZONA

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON  
ARMED SERVICES  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

July 14, 2015

The Honorable Robert McDonald  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonald:

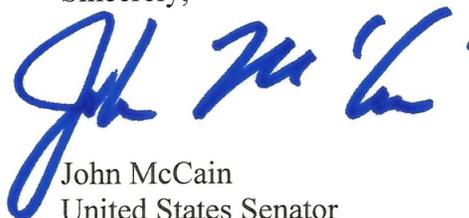
I wish to bring your attention a matter that may cause significant harm to some veterans in Arizona. The Cancer Care Center of Western Arizona (CCWA), located within the Havasu Regional Medical Center, provides cancer treatments to include chemotherapy for about twenty veterans in the area under existing authorizations from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). CCWA received notification on June 23, 2015, that their fee-basis authorization would be terminated in an effort to switch all area patients to TriWest credentialed facilities. I have been informed that CCWA has already lost authorization to treat a number of veterans needing follow ups, but that as of July 28, 2015, all twenty veterans will be denied vitally needed care at the CCWA.

I understand that the physicians at the CCWA will be applying for the relevant TriWest credentials but that credentialing of these physicians can take thirty to sixty days under the best of circumstances. While the VA provides cancer treatment at the VA in Phoenix or Prescott, traveling hundreds of miles round-trip to VA hospital facilities is not an option for these veterans; CCWA remains their only viable location to receive cancer treatments. Also, due to the location of a VA clinic, which does not provide chemotherapy, these veterans do not qualify under the VA Choice Card program.

Given the severity and potential harm to these Arizona veterans who are in danger of being denied the chemotherapy treatment and consultations they absolutely need, the usual bureaucratic processes must be accelerated to ensure that their care continues. I, therefore, ask that you examine all options for swift resolution of this matter and direct VA leaders to take all necessary actions to ensure the continuation of care for these veterans. Due to the fast-approaching termination date, I also ask that you indicate by Thursday, July 23, 2015, how you intend to address this matter.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. I look forward to your timely response to this letter.

Sincerely,



John McCain  
United States Senator

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