



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

May 06, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of the Department of War
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hegseth:

We are writing to share our strong opposition to the proposal by the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to downgrade the Eisenhower Army Medical Center (EAMC) at Fort Gordon to an ambulatory care center. As Members representing districts across Georgia and South Carolina, with over 20 military installations, our constituents and their dependents deserve reliable and consistent access to care.

While DHA has notified Congress about the proposed changes, it is required by law that DHA submit a report to the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) and the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) on the proposed plans to restructure EAMC and Congress has 180 days to review the proposal before any changes are made.

It is very concerning that DHA has circumvented the law and has proceeded to downsize the EAMC based on a previous administration's plan to address their recruiting failures and lack of investment in the men and women of the military. Unlike the Biden administration, recruiting and retention are at an all-time high and the President has submitted a historic budget request, placing real dollars behind the readiness of our warriors. Under these new circumstances, we urge DHA to reconsider the changes made at EAMC and to halt any further actions, with respect to delivery of care and staffing until Congress has assessed the plan.

While our servicemembers and their families are our priority, there are real national security concerns sending servicemembers into the civilian healthcare system. Our adversaries regularly target our civilian medical record systems, putting our servicemembers' health data at risk as well as the network itself. Additionally, with operations ongoing in SOUTHCOM, EAMC serves an important role in logistics and is integral to readiness.

EAMC has consistently been ranked among the top military health institutions serving our Nation. President Trump has prioritized strengthening and rebuilding our military infrastructure

and has directed a comprehensive approach to improving quality of life and quality access to services for those who serve our Nation. We fail to see how the effective closure of a respected facility serving an entire region furthers this goal.

We sent a letter to DHA in January requesting answers to the following questions within 30 calendar days, however, we have yet to receive a response and would request these questions be answered:

1. Has the required assessment been completed with input from branches to assess the full scope and impact of such a reduction of services? If so, please provide.
2. Given ongoing global military operations, especially the SOUTHCOM AOR, what plans has the Defense Health Agency developed to offset reduced medical capacity and maintain adequate casualty care and surge support during contingency operations?
3. Have fewer doctors been assigned to the hospital and has Defense Health Agency overseen any efforts to reduce, redirect, or retire providers at Eisenhower Army Medical Center since the announcement of planned reduction of services?
4. Has DHA begun to implement changes to the Eisenhower Army Medical Center without approval or disapproval from Congress?

We are grateful to represent servicemembers and their families who face unique and complex needs due to their service. Again, we urge DHA to follow the letter of the law and halt any further changes to EAMC.

CC: Chairman Mike Rogers, House Armed Services Committee

Sincerely,



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Earl "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Sheri Biggs
Member of Congress



Brian Jack
Member of Congress