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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

November 5th, 2025

The Honorable Doug Collins
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Collins,

I write you today to request that Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) be made available to Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans' Hospital to better serve veterans in this region of Texas.

San Antonio proudly carries the mantle of "Military City, USA." This distinction comes with a significant responsibility to provide over 140,000 veterans with the world-class healthcare they earned through their service in the U.S. military.

The Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans' Hospital and its associated clinics currently provide veterans with invaluable care. As the needs of Texas veterans grow, I respectfully ask that provided services expand to include MMUs, which are urgently needed to fully meet the unique needs of our veteran population.

Our region's veteran community covers a vast and diverse area, and many veterans face barriers that are not easily addressed by the traditional clinic model. Travel to and from VA facilities can be a major challenge for veterans in rural counties surrounding Bexar County, including Wilson, Karnes, and Guadalupe counties. Factors like advanced age, disability, and a lack of reliable transportation, often make trips to brick-and-mortar facilities difficult, leading to missed care and delayed treatments. While the VA has made strides in providing timely appointments, wait times for new patients remain a barrier, particularly in regions with growing veteran populations like South Texas.

The existing San Antonio VA Medical Center (VAMC), built in 1972, is challenged with an aging infrastructure and a maintenance deficiency of nearly \$40 million. Clinical spaces have become outdated and no longer meet VA space guidelines to support care delivery models. While plans are underway to construct a replacement VAMC to accommodate the growing number of enrollees, this project will take considerable time. In the interim, and even after completion, there

will remain a critical need to bridge the healthcare gap for veterans who are not within easy commuting distance of the VAMC.

A fleet of Mobile Medical Units would be a transformative solution. MMUs bring essential healthcare services directly to the veteran, eliminating the logistical burdens of long-distance travel and parking. These units can be strategically deployed to community centers, rural town halls, or even directly to veteran-serving organizations, increasing accessibility for those who are homebound or geographically isolated. MMUs are proven to reduce non-emergent visits to emergency departments by addressing acute issues in a timely, convenient manner.

Beyond providing primary care and wellness checks, MMUs offer a crucial platform for mental health and preventative care. For veterans experiencing homelessness or those struggling with mental health issues who may feel intimidated by a traditional hospital setting, a mobile clinic offers an accessible and trusted point of contact. MMUs not only provide immediate care but also serve as a vital first step in connecting veterans to the full suite of VA services and community resources. Investing in additional MMUs would demonstrate a proactive commitment to reach every veteran and ensure they receive the consistent and dignified care they deserve.

Thank you for your time and your tireless work in supporting our nation's heroes. I am confident that the investment in an MMU program for the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans' Hospital would be a cost-effective and highly impactful way to improve health outcomes and quality of life for the veteran community in my district. I look forward to your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress
15th District of Texas