

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

September 21, 2015

Mr. Steve Reeves
Interim Director, Northeast Region
15 Dartmouth Drive, Suite 202
Auburn, NH 03032

Dear Director Reeves:

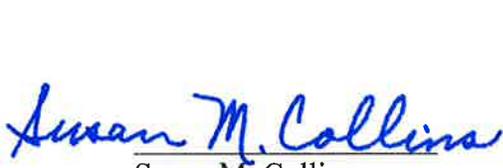
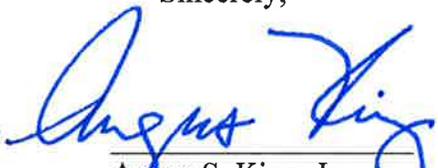
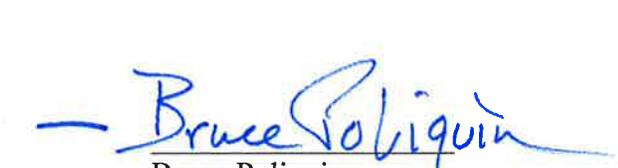
We write to express grave concern about staff vacancies at the Veterans' Center in Lewiston, Maine. As you are aware, Maine's five Vet Centers provide vital health care and counseling services to local communities throughout the State. To ensure these services meet the high standard of excellence our veterans deserve, it is essential that the Vet Centers are sufficiently staffed. Unfortunately, based on our conversations with Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) officials and members of the Lewiston community, it is clear that existing vacancies are affecting veteran service and care.

VA staff advised our offices that the Lewiston Vet Center currently has two positions vacant: a team leader and a counselor. While we understand that no veterans have been denied services due to the lack of staff availability, we are troubled by the continued vacancies. The absence of these health care professionals has a direct effect on the quality of care our veterans have earned, and we request that a high priority be placed on filling these positions.

We ask that immediate actions be taken to correct this problem and urge you to work cooperatively with the VA to fill these vacancies as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

 Susan M. Collins United States Senator	 Angus S. King, Jr. United States Senator	 Bruce Poliquin Member of Congress
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