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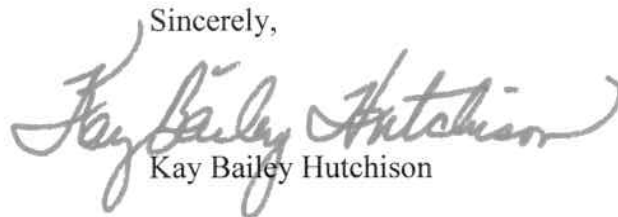
The Honorable James Peake  
Secretary  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing in regards to several concerns that have been raised regarding the quality of veteran health care in El Paso, Texas. As you are aware, an internal Department of Veterans Affairs study on performance standards and health care delivery ranked the El Paso outpatient clinic well below the national average, and I find this most disturbing. I am committed to making sure that all of our veterans in Texas, and everywhere in this country, receive the very best medical care this nation can provide.

I am very concerned about the veterans in El Paso experiencing unusually long waiting times for appointments, particularly specialty appointments, and having limited access to health care. Please provide me with the details of the Department's study on health care delivery in El Paso. It is my understanding that the Department has implemented a management plan to correct these issues and ensure that the veterans in the El Paso area receive the highest quality of health care this nation can provide. I would like to know what the plan entails and if I can be helpful in any way.

Sincerely,



Kay Bailey Hutchison