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Congress of the United States
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April 27, 2016

Robert A. McDonald
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW, Room 1000
Washington, DC 20420
Fax: (202) 495-5463

Dear Secretary McDonald,

I am pleased to learn that the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) recently resubmitted a grant application to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) for construction funding for the Copas Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Lucie County. This new facility, to be constructed to new federal Community Living Center standards, will be the first of its kind in Florida and fill an existing nursing home service gap in our state. I am happy to support FDVA's application and urge the Department to appropriately prioritize the necessary construction funding for the home.

The Copas Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Lucie County will provide health care, follow-up assistance, and long-term care services that our veterans deserve. The nursing home will assist veterans residing in St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River, Okeechobee, and Highlands counties. The location will also serve portions of six other nearby counties with the ability to reach approximately 211,647 veterans, more than half of these veterans are over the age of 65. The Copas Veterans' Nursing Home will truly be an asset to our community and help provide veterans with exemplary care closer to home.

I look forward to being updated by your staff regarding the consideration of grant applications for construction funding for nursing homes nationwide. I also look forward to the VA's announcement that funding for the Copas Veterans' Nursing Home has been approved and that construction by the state of Florida may begin in 2017.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Patrick E. Murphy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS