

JOE DONNELLY  
INDIANA

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## United States Senate

November 10, 2016

Mr. Michael E. Hershman  
Director  
VA Northern Indiana Health Care System  
2121 Lake Avenue  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Mr. David Cangany,  
General Manager and CEO  
South Bend Public Transportation Corp.  
1401 South Lafayette Boulevard  
South Bend, IN 46613

Dear Director Hershman and Mr. Cangany:

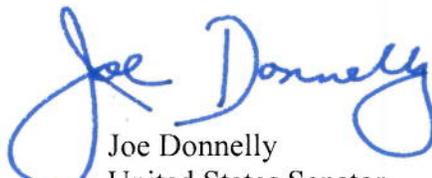
I am writing to encourage your organizations to work together to ensure efficient and reliable transportation for South Bend and Mishawaka veterans to the new St. Joseph County Health Care Center, which is expected to open in September 2017.

The establishment of the new health care center in Mishawaka is a welcome development to Michiana-area veterans, many of whom currently must travel hours to access the health care they have been promised. As we prepare for the facility's opening next year, however, we must also work to ensure access for area veterans without reliable transportation, including homeless, disabled, and other vulnerable veterans. As such, the extension and establishment of bus routes and van services that connect local veterans with the St. Joseph County Health Care Center and other community-based veteran services is critical to our shared commitment to serving the broadest population possible.

I respectfully request that the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System and Transpo develop and implement a plan that will ensure all veterans living in the Transpo service area have reliable access to care at our community's new facility beginning the first day it is open.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator

Cc: Mayor Pete Buttigieg  
Mayor Dave Wood