



ANGELO SANTABARBARA, PE
Assemblyman 111th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Committee on
People with Disabilities
COMMITTEES
Energy
Governmental Employees
Mental Health
Racing and Wagering

March 20th, 2026

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
2269 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko,

I write to respectfully request your support in addressing a matter of significant concern to veterans in my district—the planned closure of the Schenectady Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

As outlined by the Albany VA Medical Center, the Schenectady CBOC is scheduled to be consolidated with the Clifton Park location upon the expiration of its lease in August 2026. While I appreciate the VA's goal of expanding specialty services, the closure of this facility raises serious concerns about access to care for veterans in Schenectady and the surrounding communities.

For many veterans—particularly seniors, individuals with disabilities, and those with limited transportation options—the Schenectady clinic provides critical, convenient access to primary care services. The loss of this location will require many to travel farther for care, creating barriers that may lead to missed appointments, delayed treatment, and worsening health outcomes.

The Schenectady CBOC has long served as a trusted and accessible resource for local veterans, fostering strong relationships and continuity of care. Eliminating this facility risks undermining those connections and placing additional strain on other VA locations that may already be operating near capacity.

Given your longstanding commitment to supporting veterans and strengthening access to healthcare services across New York, I respectfully ask for your assistance in urging the VA to reconsider this decision. Preserving the Schenectady CBOC, while continuing to enhance services in other locations, would better ensure that veterans in our region receive the care they have earned without unnecessary hardship.

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I would welcome the opportunity to work with your office on this issue and to advocate together on behalf of our veterans.

Thank you for your continued leadership and for your unwavering support of those who have served our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angelo Santabarbara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Angelo Santabarbara, PE

Member of the New York State Assembly

111th District | Representing areas of Montgomery & Schenectady Counties