



ANGELO SANTABARBARA, PE  
Assemblyman 111<sup>th</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

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

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Darlene DeLancey  
Executive Medical Center Director  
Albany VA Medical Center  
113 Holland Avenue  
Albany, NY 12208

Dear Ms. DeLancey,

I write in response to your recent announcement regarding the planned consolidation of services and the closure of the Schenectady Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). As a representative of many veterans who rely on this facility, I respectfully urge you to reconsider this decision.

While I understand the intent to streamline services and expand specialty care at the Clifton Park location, the proposed closure raises serious concerns about access and equity for veterans in Schenectady and the surrounding communities. For many individuals—particularly seniors, those with disabilities, and veterans with limited transportation options—the Schenectady CBOC provides essential, convenient access to primary care. Increasing travel distances, even by several miles, can create real barriers to consistent care and negatively impact health outcomes.

The Schenectady clinic is more than just a point of service—it is a trusted, community-based resource that has built strong relationships with local veterans. Disrupting that continuity of care risks discouraging routine visits, delaying treatment, and increasing reliance on emergency services.

Additionally, while expanding services in Clifton Park is a positive step, it should not come at the expense of eliminating an existing access point. Both locations serve distinct populations, and maintaining the Schenectady facility alongside enhancements elsewhere would better ensure comprehensive and equitable coverage across the region.

I respectfully request that the Department reevaluate this plan and explore alternative solutions that preserve the Schenectady CBOC while still achieving your broader goals. I would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively to identify options that best serve our veterans without reducing access to care. Our veterans have made tremendous sacrifices in service to our nation. We owe it to them to ensure that access to care is not diminished, but strengthened.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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.

Angelo Santabarbara, PE

**Member of the New York State Assembly**

111th District | Representing areas of Montgomery & Schenectady Counties