

# MOAA-NH Policy Position: A Full-Service VA Hospital for New Hampshire

**To:** Members of the U.S. Congress, Department of Veterans Affairs, and NH policymakers  
**From:** New Hampshire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA-NH)  
**Subject:** Support for a Full-Service VA Hospital While Preserving Veterans' Choice  
**Date:** September 17, 2026

## Position

The New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA-NH) strongly supports President Trump's Executive Order 14296 and the New Hampshire congressional delegation's efforts to establish a **full-service VA medical center in New Hampshire**. At the same time, MOAA-NH believes that expanding VA infrastructure must **not diminish a veteran's ability to receive timely, high-quality care from community providers**.

New Hampshire has long been an unacceptable exception in the nation's veterans' health-care system. It remains the only state in the contiguous United States without a full-service VA medical center. The Manchester VA currently provides important primary, specialty, mental health, long-term-care, and other services, but it does not provide the full range of hospital services available at a traditional VA medical center.

The VA's subsequent planning documents identify **new construction of a state-of-the-art replacement VA outpatient medical center in Manchester as the preferred alternative to a full-service hospital**, including expanded medical and surgical specialties, urgent care, mental health, radiology, rehabilitation, outpatient surgery, pathology and laboratory services, and other essential capabilities. It does not envision the full range of hospital services available at a traditional VA Medical Center as called for in the President's directive.

MOAA-NH also recognizes and commends the unified support of New Hampshire's four-member congressional delegation—Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan and Representatives Chris Pappas and Maggie Goodlander—for advancing this objective. All four have called on the VA to move forward with the feasibility study and action plan necessary to establish a full-service VA hospital in New Hampshire.

## Preserve Community Care and Veteran Choice

Building a full-service VA hospital should **complement—not replace—the Veterans Community Care Network**. Veterans should continue to have access to community physicians, hospitals, specialists, and other providers when community care is the best option based on clinical need, timely access, geographic convenience, or veteran preference under applicable VA rules.

The VA itself recognizes the importance of combining VA-based services with community care. Manchester VA has an established relationship with Concord Hospital for inpatient care, demonstrating that VA and community providers can work together to expand access for Granite State veterans. Additional relationships should be established state-wide like Vermont's White River Junction's full-service VA Hospital's relationship with Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center.

Establishing this full-service capability is even more imperative given the civilian health care system – especially in New Hampshire -- is under considerable stress. And VA officials considering further expansion of community care services should be aware of struggles faced by the TRICARE civilian-care system.

Together VA and the military health system (MHS) serve more than 18 million patients. Both systems were looking to transition more care into the civilian sector which has severe capacity challenges. VA patients will be competing with commercially insured patients who are more lucrative to civilian providers driving up cost and wait times.

And as the cost of community care rises – community care is almost half of the entire Manchester VA operations budget – fiscal pressures will necessitate bringing community care patients back into the direct care system. This is already underway in the MHS. Striking the right balance between direct and community care remains paramount.

Finally, and perhaps most important, health care for veteran's is **different** than civilian health care. Military service including combat, extended deployments, high-stress training and mental health requires **integrated veteran-centered care** not found in the civilian system. A modern full-service VA medical center would give New Hampshire veterans a strong **home base for integrated veteran-centered care**, while community care would provide a critical safety valve and additional capacity. The objective should be **more choices, not fewer**.

## MOAA-NH Recommendations

MOAA-NH urges Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to:

1. **Fully implement Executive Order 14296** and proceed expeditiously with the establishment of a full-service VA medical center in New Hampshire.
2. **Fund a modern, appropriately sized replacement facility in Manchester** capable of meeting the long-term health-care needs of New Hampshire's 86,000 veterans.
3. **Preserve and strengthen community care**, ensuring veterans do not lose access to qualified community providers as VA hospital services expand.
4. **Maintain veteran choice and timely access to care**, using both VA and community resources according to clinical need and the veteran's circumstances.
5. **Integrate VA and community providers**, improving referrals, records sharing, care coordination, and continuity of care.
6. **Engage New Hampshire veterans and veterans' organizations** throughout planning, design, construction, and implementation.

## Conclusion

New Hampshire veterans have earned the same access to comprehensive VA health care enjoyed by veterans in every other contiguous state. Establishing a full-service VA medical center is an important step toward fulfilling the nation's commitment to those who served.

MOAA-NH supports President Trump's Executive Order and the leadership of New Hampshire's congressional delegation. We urge the Administration, Congress, and VA to turn that commitment into action—**building a modern full-service VA hospital while protecting veterans' continued access to community care and the freedom to receive the right care, at the right place, at the right time.**

**For New Hampshire veterans, the goal should be simple: a stronger VA, more choices, and better access to care.**