

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4605**

February 6, 2025

Dr. David J. Smith  
Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
Defense Health Agency  
7700 Arlington Boulevard  
Falls Church, VA 22042

Lt. Gen. Telita Crosland  
Director  
Defense Health Agency  
7700 Arlington Boulevard  
Falls Church, VA 22042

Dear Dr. Smith and Lt. General Crosland,

I write to you today out of deep concern regarding the reported poor conditions and recent flooding incidents at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. As a Member of Congress and the Armed Services Committee from the Commonwealth of Virginia, but most importantly, a former United States Navy SEAL, I must advocate for the welfare of our servicemembers and the dedicated professionals who provide their care. The issues at Walter Reed raise serious questions about the quality and safety of the environment in our nation's military flagship hospital.

Numerous reports have highlighted unacceptable infrastructure deficiencies, including water damage, mold growth, and persistent flooding, that jeopardize patient health and the operational capacity of medical staff. These conditions are detrimental to patients' recovery and well-being and undermine the morale of healthcare providers committed to their care.

I respectfully request an immediate and comprehensive review of the current conditions at Walter Reed. Specifically, I urge the Defense Health Agency to:

1. Conduct a thorough assessment of the facility's infrastructure vulnerabilities, including plumbing and drainage systems.
2. Provide a detailed report on the extent of the damage, corrective actions taken to date, and a timeline for necessary repairs.
3. Outline a long-term strategy to prevent similar issues from recurring and ensure the facility's resilience and safety.

Furthermore, I request a briefing for Members of Congress, particularly those serving on the Armed Services Committee, to discuss the findings and proposed solutions. Our nation's servicemembers deserve the highest standard of care in facilities that reflect the honor and respect they have earned. I appreciate your immediate attention and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



John J. McGuire III  
Member of Congress