

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0609

January 10, 2025

Lt. Gen. Telita Crosland  
Director, Defense Health Agency  
U.S. Department of Defense  
7700 Arlington Blvd.  
Suite 5101  
Falls Church, VA 22042-5101

Lt. Gen. Crosland,

I write with utmost concern regarding recent reports that the Defense Health Agency (DHA) is considering downgrading the Irwin Army Community Hospital, located in Fort Riley, Kansas, and the Munson Army Health Center, located in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to acute care clinics. If true, the Defense Health Agency must immediately reconsider its decision to safeguard servicemember access to these exceptional hospitals.

If actualized, these downgrades of the hospitals on Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth would be devastating to the servicemembers, their family members, the veterans in the surrounding communities, and the tens of thousands of Kansans in the local areas who rely on these institutions. Combined, these hospitals service more than 75,000 individuals. At this point, it is unclear how the DHA and the Department of Defense will address shortages of care that will undoubtedly occur following this change.

Most importantly and urgently, DHA must explain why this change is necessary. Senior officials must provide a reasonable explanation for requiring servicemembers, their loved ones, veterans, and others to travel great lengths for any injuries that require more care than outpatient services.

This response must also address the impacts these changes will have on military readiness. Forcing servicemembers to use limited time and resources to transit to the nearest emergency room will detract manpower and assets from serving the greater mission of protecting American national security.

Additionally, DHA must address reports that the agency partially based its decision to downgrade Fort Riley's Irwin Army Community Hospital on a census of the installation performed while the First Infantry Division had servicemembers deployed overseas. If this information is true, I request that DHA immediately conduct a new census of Fort Riley to ascertain accurate population figures for the installation.

If these reports are confirmed, DHA must immediately reconsider any planned action to downgrade the hospitals on Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth. Furthermore, DHA must provide

my office with a full explanation as to why DHA did not inform Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, and Congressional offices sooner about such a drastic decision affecting tens of thousands of Kansans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger W. Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Roger Marshall, M.D.  
United State Senator

CC:

Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III  
Secretary of Defense  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
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