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House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

HARRISBURG

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HOUSE MAJORITY POLICY COMMITTEE

DESIGNATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS
STATE ARMORY BOARD
PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

March 28, 2002

Ed Rodwell, Director
Department of Veterans Affairs
Berks Leisure Area
1901 Tulpehocken Road
Wyomissing, PA 19610

Dear Director Rodwell:

Thank you for contacting me to enlist my support for obtaining state funds to aid in the expansion of the Berks County Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). I am most appreciative of your taking the time to write.

In regard to House Bill 1129, which you referenced, no legislative action has been taken. However, in this same vein, on January 31, the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council voted to transmit a letter to Governor Schweiker requesting that he, by Executive Order, direct that the Council establish a formal site selection committee. This committee would work through a process leading to a proposed site for a veteran's home to be located more or less within 30 miles of Harrisburg. In the past, this body, composed of the State Commanders of many veterans organizations, has played a pivotal role in the site selection of four of our six state veterans homes. The Governor has not yet acted upon this request, but my sense is that he will. Because the 30-mile radius language is not definite, a center in Hamburg would appropriately be on the table for discussion. All interested parties could apprise the committee of their site proposals and schedule visits to the proposed sites.

In this regard, the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, which I chair, would, subsequent to the Governor acting and the selection committee doing its works, be in a position to conduct a public hearing in order to examine this body's findings. My committee would then lead the effort of drafting legislation necessary to make the new veterans home possible. I look forward to helping make this project come to fruition.

Finally, concerning the expansion of the Berks County Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC), although this is a federal government related matter, I assure you that I support the

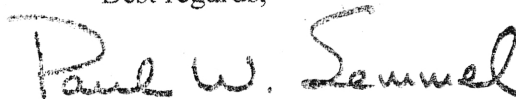
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expansion effort. I intend to voice my support to Director Bior, as well as Senator Specter, ranking Republican on the United States Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. If you have not already done so, I believe it would be helpful for you, too, to contact Senator Specter.

Again, thanks for writing and affording me the opportunity of discussing these matters with you. As chairman of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, the healthcare needs of veterans residing in Pennsylvania are a high priority. As always, I welcome your input concerning issues that are especially important to our veteran population.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul W. Semmel". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

PAUL W. SEMMEL
Majority Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Emergency
Preparedness Committee

PWS/prh

DAVID G. ARGALL
MAJORITY CAUCUS CHAIRMAN

RULES COMMITTEE

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AIR AND WATER
POLLUTION CONTROL
& CONSERVATION COMMITTEE



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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March 11, 2002

The Honorable Rick Santorum
120 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515


Dear Senator Santorum:


We are writing to you today regarding the expansion of the Berks County Veterans' Clinic. We understand that you have been working with members of the Combined Veterans Council of Berks County on this issue.

Last year your staff set up a meeting with the Veterans Council and members of the General Assembly to discuss veterans' issues in Berks County. It is our understanding the most feasible plan was to expand upon those services already provided by the Veterans' Clinic. As you and your staff continue to work with the Veterans Council on the expansion, we would like you to contact us, as we will assist with the project when possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

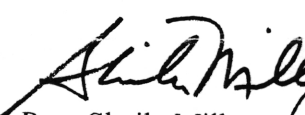
Sincerely,

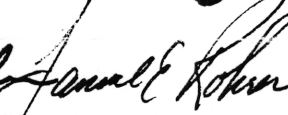

Rep. Bob Allen

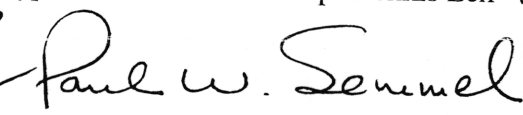

Rep. David Argall


Rep. Jane Baker


Rep. Dennis Leh


Rep. Sheila Miller


Rep. Samuel Rohrer


Rep. Paul Semmel

CC: Mr. Ed Rodwell, Director, Berks County Board of Commissioners
Department of Veterans Affairs