

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
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SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

September 8, 2017

The Honorable David Shulkin, M.D.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Shulkin:

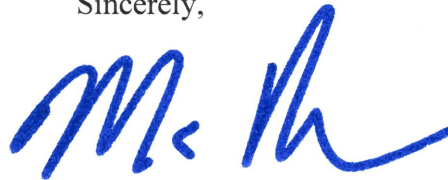
As Hurricane Irma approaches Florida, I urge the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to do everything in its power to ensure our veterans are taken care of in the aftermath of this potentially catastrophic storm. Florida has a veteran population of roughly 1.5 million men and women, and many of them are over the age of 65. I urge you to authorize increased outreach efforts and benefits assistance for these veterans to the maximum extent possible.

Maintaining veterans programs and facilities in Florida after the storm will be vital to ensuring the health and safety of our veterans who need regular assistance, and I support the VA's discretion in continuing operations at various medical centers and outpatient clinics throughout the state. I am grateful for the measures the VA has already implemented, such as the Pharmacy Disaster Relief Plan, and the foresight displayed in providing increased flexibility for veterans to receive their benefit payments due to disruptions in postal service operations.

I look forward to working together to give veterans affected by Hurricane Irma the relief needed to recover from this disaster as swiftly as possible.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator