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COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 7, 2018

Michael Fisher Chief Readjustment Counseling Officer (10 RCS) 810 Vermont Avenue, North West Washington, DC 20420

Dear Mr. Fisher,

I appreciated our recent discussion, and am thankful for your ongoing leadership of a program that continues to provide life-altering and often life-saving services and support for veterans, service members and their families. After our recent meeting, I was particularly pleased that you are committed to expanding these services to additional veterans in Montana by considering the establishment of a permanent Vet Center Outstation in Hamilton.

As you know, I am concerned that veterans living in highly rural areas, like those in the Hamilton area, are unable to access Vet Center counseling services as easily as their counterparts who live in or near larger population centers. That is why, as a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have fought particularly hard to secure increased funding for Vet Centers so they can carry out and expand the critical services and counseling they provide. In my opinion, Vet Center services are a tremendously cost-effective way to deliver the mental and behavioral care that veterans and service members have earned and deserve.

I appreciate all that you do on behalf of our nation's veterans, and I look forward to working with you to make the Vet Center Outstation in Hamilton a reality.

Sincerely,

Ion Tester

United States Senator