



RPNM STATEMENT ON RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE FOUR NEW MEXICO VA CLINICS



Albuquerque, April 28—The following is a statement from RPNM Chairman Steve Pearce regarding the Biden Administration’s plan to shut down four VA Clinics in New Mexico. The Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Commission has proposed closing the community-based clinics in Espanola, Las Vegas, Raton and Gallup.

“These clinics provide vital health services to struggling veterans. They are located in rural areas and to shut them down would be detrimental to the health and care of our valued veterans. This Democratic Administration doesn’t support our vets, and this action is an insult to those who have served our nation with honor and dignity. Many veterans who need these important health services at the clinics are elderly and would have to drive 4 or 5 hours to receive vital outpatient primary care services and medical care. This burden, along with skyrocketing gas prices, adds an additional sting. These closures are wrong and show the administration’s disrespect for our treasured vets. Meanwhile, Gov. Lujan Grisham remains silent instead of actively defending our vets.”

More than 34,000 New Mexico veterans live in these rural areas, and these clinics provide the only access to care for them.

Pearce says he’s pleased that New Mexico Senate Republican leadership has sent a letter to the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs urging him to reject the AIR Commission’s recommendations.