



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
ROSEBURG VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM  
913 NW Garden Valley Blvd  
Roseburg, Oregon 97470-6513**

February 11, 2022

In Reply Refer To: 653/118E

Lisa Yop, MSN, RN  
913 NW Garden Valley Blvd  
Roseburg, OR 97471

Dear Chair and Members,

I am a nurse manager and nurse recruiter for the Roseburg VA Health Care System which offers primary and specialty health care services to about 62,000 Veterans in Central and Southern Oregon and Northern California. Our four-county service area covers Douglas, Lane, Coos, and Curry counties in Oregon, as well as Del Norte, California. The Roseburg VA Health Care System is one of the leading health care systems serving Veterans in the VA Northwest Health Network. We are an innovative care center within the Veterans Integrated Service Network 20 (VISN 20), which includes medical centers and clinics in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

Over the past several years Roseburg VA Health Care System has experienced increasing difficulty in filling critical allied health positions across our health care system. The projected attrition rates for retirement eligible health care staff over the next 10 years will further impact vacancy rates and Veteran access to primary, specialty, and mental health services.

The Veterans Health Administration has a principled mission to provide health professions education, which promotes improved outcomes for Veterans. health professions training results in the development of future health professionals who are well prepared to care for Veterans, enhances VA's own recruitment and retention of highly qualified staff, and creates an environment of teaching, learning and application that facilitates the delivery of high quality, evidence-based care.

The Roseburg VA Health Care System is a teaching organization that provides a wide range of services, with state-of-the-art technology as well as education. For more than 60 years, the VA has conducted one of the largest medical education efforts in the U.S., partnering with affiliated colleges and universities to train new health care professionals and enhance Veteran care. Many of these health professional trainees accept permanent positions within the VA. Rural communities such as southern Oregon, have difficulty in attracting qualified health care professionals from the urban areas where most of the university and medical schools are located.

Access to comprehensive, high quality physical and mental health care services is a growing challenge facing the rural communities of southern Oregon. Veteran access to primary, specialty and mental health care can be increased if we could establish a pipeline for professional work force of health care workers in our rural communities. We currently have many allied health positions that are hard to fill, including physical and occupational therapists, nurses, social workers, mental health providers, and medical and diagnostic technologists.

The Roseburg VA Health Care System fully supports the Southern Oregon Medical Workforce Center to provide trained health care professionals to help treat our veterans and provide opportunity for our current employees to sharpen their skills for career advancement.

Thank you,

Lisa Yop, MSN, RN  
Nurse Manager Employee Education/Nurse Recruiter  
Roseburg VA Health Care System  
Roseburg, OR 97471  
541-440-1000