The Honorable Carl Levin  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter provides the Department’s response to the Independent Review Panel’s Initial Report on Military Medical Construction Standards. The Panel is a Federal Advisory Committee established by the Secretary of Defense in accordance with section 2852 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, Public Law 111-383. The Panel is required to provide an initial report on: (a) the unified construction standards’ consistency with industry practices and benchmarks; (b) the uniform application of standards in the Department of Defense’s (DoD) ongoing construction programs; (c) the DoD’s approach to planning and programming facility improvements; (d) whether the Comprehensive Master Plan for the National Capital Region is adequate to fulfill statutory requirements; and (e) recommendations regarding adjustments to the Comprehensive Master Plan.

The Department fully supports the work of the Panel and appreciates the observations in the Initial Report. The Department will continue to respond to information or briefing requests to help facilitate this continuing effort and look forward to receiving the findings and recommendations in the February 2015 Annual Report. The Department expresses its appreciation to Congress for its steadfast interest and support. Our country’s wounded warfighters continue to remain the Department’s top priority.

A similar letter has been sent to the Chairpersons of the other congressional defense committees.

Sincerely,

Jessica L. Wright

cc:  
The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
Ranking Member
The Honorable Howard P. “Buck” McKeon
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

cc:
The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jessica L. Wright

cc:
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
Vice Chairman
The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  

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Sincerely,

Jessica L. Wright

cc:  
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Ranking Member