



# PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA NEWS

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Contact: Laura Holman at  
(303)597-0038 or (800)833-9400

## **Colorado Veteran Leadership Adopts a Unified Position on VA's New Plan for Fitzsimons**

**AURORA, COLORADO** – The Mountain States Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (MSCPVA) is pleased to have worked with other Colorado veteran leaders to formulate a unified position on the Veterans Health Administration's (VA) new plans for Denver's VA replacement facility. The newly proposed Veteran-Centric Plan presented to the veteran community is significantly lacking in details and was crafted without any input from veterans service organizations that represent Colorado's more than 460,000 veterans.

Despite varying concerns, members of the United Veterans Committee of Colorado, which includes MSCPVA, unanimously support the following position regarding the new plan for Fitzsimons.

*“Colorado veteran leadership has concerns with the VA VISN 19 Veteran-Centric plan for a new VA Medical Center, because of insufficient information. It is impossible for veterans to support the plan until details are presented. We applaud the proposed meeting with Deputy Secretary Gordon Mansfield to involve veterans in the detailed planning process. It is to the benefit of all to resolve outstanding issues. We look forward to a timely plan for a new VA Medical Center at Fitzsimons that meets the needs as identified by CARES.”*

An outstanding issue indispensable to MSCPVA is the need for a 30-bed Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Center in Denver. The new plan eliminated the SCI Center and reduced it to an 8-bed inpatient clinic and outpatient program. MSCPVA finds this unacceptable due to the clear need for a comprehensive SCI Center in this region.

The VA/VISN's data is questionable and conflicts with its own assessment of the medical needs of veterans residing in VISN 19. Although a component of the plan to expand rural health care is commendable, it doesn't justify the downsizing of Denver's VA medical center. MSCPVA is eager to work with the veteran community and the VA/VISN to construct a timely plan that will service the needs of all veterans living in this region.

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*The Mtn. States Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, a veterans service organization, was established in 1955 and serves paralyzed veterans in Colorado, Montana, Wyoming and Utah, all of whom have catastrophic paralysis caused by spinal cord injury or disease. To learn more about MSCPVA, visit [www.mscpva.org](http://www.mscpva.org).*