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VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510
July 24, 2012

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) prepares its FY 2014 budget, I ask that you give full consideration to moving up the "Renovate for Historical Archives" projects – Building 129 and Building 116 on the Dayton VA Medical Center Campus—on the Integrated Priority List. For the FY 2013 VA budget, Building 129 project was listed as priority number 703 and Building 116 was number 792, ensuring that they would not be built during FY2013.

As we have discussed many times, there is no better place to house the archives of the Veterans Health Administration than in Dayton, home of the "Central Branch" of the National Home for Disabled Veterans. Created by Abraham Lincoln, the National Home was the precursor to the Department of Veterans Affairs. From 1867 until 1930, the Central Branch housed and cared for thousands of veterans. Today, the Dayton VA Medical Center continues the Central Branch's tradition as it continues to serve our nation's veterans.

Delaying the establishment and construction of Veterans Health Administration archives adds to the long term costs of the project and threatens historic records and artifacts whose protection and utilization were the original motivators for establishing the archives project.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to continuing our work regarding the archives project.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator