

Wayne Allard

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FORT LYON BILL GAINS FINAL APPROVAL BILL NOW GOES TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE

Washington, D.C. – Legislation introduced by U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) to expedite the transfer of Fort Lyon VA Medical Center in Las Animas to the state of Colorado gained final congressional approval late Tuesday evening when the final version of the bill was approved unanimously by the U.S. House of Representatives. The Senate gave approval to the legislation last Thursday. The bill will now be sent to President Clinton for his signature. He is expected to sign the bill before the end of October.

“We have just cleared the last remaining legislative hurdle,” Allard said following the House vote Tuesday night. “The effort to ensure that no veteran’s medical needs go unmet due to the closure of Fort Lyon VA Medical Center has met with success. Once the bill is signed by President Clinton, I intend to be in touch with the Veterans Administration to make sure they begin the process of opening up the new three healthcare clinics as soon as possible.”

Allard’s legislation will require the VA to implement a plan to open at least three healthcare clinics throughout southern Colorado and a nursing home in Pueblo. In addition, the bill provides for full funding of nursing home healthcare for all current Veterans at Fort Lyon and guarantees continued public access to the historic chapel and cemetery along with expediting the transfer of Fort Lyon to the state of Colorado.

“My hope is this legislation will expand healthcare options for veterans throughout southern Colorado and also help lessen the economic impact that the VA’s decision to close Fort Lyon will have on Las Animas and the Lower Arkansas Valley,” added Allard. “I am personally going to make sure the commitments that have made to our Veterans are honored by the VA.”

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