

CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
14TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

2331 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3214  
(202) 225-7944

COMMITTEES:

FINANCIAL SERVICES

GOVERNMENT REFORM

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3214

DISTRICT OFFICES:

1651 THIRD AVENUE  
SUITE 311  
NEW YORK, NY 10128  
(212) 860-0606

28-11 ASTORIA BOULEVARD  
ASTORIA, NY 11102  
(718) 932-1804

WEBSITE: [www.house.gov/maloney](http://www.house.gov/maloney)

December 6, 2004

The Honorable Anthony Principi  
Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Principi,

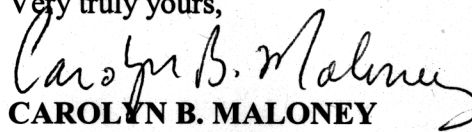
I am writing to express my concerns with the membership of the federal advisory committee (FAC) for the Brooklyn-New York VA hospital review.

As you know, the New York Campus of the VA NY Harbor Healthcare System is located at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and First Avenue in my district. This facility is an extremely important service provider to veterans who reside throughout my district. It is my understanding that two Members of Congress will be serving on federal advisory committees: Representative Amo Houghton (Canandaigua VAMC study) and Representative Anne Northup (Louisville/Lexington Kentucky study). I believe I would make a valuable contribution as a member of the FAC for the Brooklyn-New York VA hospital review, and I respectfully request that you consider including me as a member. Additionally, I believe that the FACs should have greater participation by individuals from organizations who represent the veterans depending on the care and services provided by the VA.

As casualties from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to mount, it is increasingly clear that local veterans hospitals will soon be coping with new, complicated health problems from returning veterans. Accordingly, I believe it would make sense to find ways to strengthen these two hospitals, making appropriate use of their affiliations with some of the country's best medical facilities. Although it is my understanding that the Bronx facility currently is not included in the Brooklyn-New York VA hospital review, I would appreciate your confirmation that it will not be included in this study or in any study to reduce critical services on which veterans rely.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my concerns. Should you be unable to appoint me to the FAC, I respectfully request that you provide me with all relevant information pertaining to the FAC's activities so that my staff may observe the process.

Very truly yours,

  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress

CBM/mre

cc: John Donellan

Please reply to: 1651 Third Avenue, Suite 311, New York, NY 10128

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER