

MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER
5TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

124 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4705
(202) 225-2006

528 E. SPOKANE
FALLS BLVD #115
SPOKANE, WA, 99202

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

COLLEGE SPORTS CAUCUS,
CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4705

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Douglas A. Collins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Collins,

I am writing to express deep concern regarding recent public reporting that Oracle Corporation may be evaluating *strategic alternatives* for its Oracle Health division, formerly Cerner. Specifically, multiple [media](#) and [financial reports](#) indicate that Oracle is actively considering a potential sale or divestiture of Oracle Health to raise capital for artificial intelligence (AI) and data infrastructure investments.

If accurate, those reports raise serious questions about the future of the Department of Veterans Affairs' electronic health record (EHR) modernization program, for which Oracle Health serves as the prime contractor. This initiative is one of the largest and most consequential health information technology projects ever undertaken on behalf of America's veterans. Any material change in ownership, financial posture, or strategic direction affecting Oracle Health could have significant implications for program continuity, system performance, cybersecurity, workforce stability, and vendor accountability. Most importantly, it could jeopardize the reliable and timely delivery of care to veterans who depend on this system every day.

That concern is especially acute in eastern Washington, where the Federal EHR rollout has already produced documented disruptions at the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla and its affiliated clinics. VA launched the system in Walla Walla on March 26, 2022. Within weeks, public reporting documented multiple outages. More recently, VA publicly acknowledged that it was contacting veterans who may have been affected, including issues involving labs, imaging, medications, medication renewals, prosthetics, medical supplies, pathology results, follow-up appointments, and consultations.

Federal oversight findings have reinforced those concerns. In March 2024, the VA Office of Inspector General reported that Walla Walla experienced an 8.35 percent decrease in scheduled appointments after deployment, while scheduling staffing fell 9 percent and overtime increased 52 percent.

In 2023, the Government Accountability Office reported that, prior to deployment, staff at Walla Walla were unprepared to switch systems. GAO also reported that Walla Walla's post-deployment system usability score was 32.33 on a 100-point scale, far below the 68-point score VA identified as average. In 2024, the VA Office of Inspector General further reported that Walla Walla staff described appointments in the new EHR taking nearly twice as long as in the legacy system, identified a 30 percent vacancy rate over the prior two years, and raised patient-safety concerns related to timely follow-up care and medication renewals.

Given that record, any further instability involving Oracle Health would be particularly troubling. Veterans and clinicians in Walla Walla have already suffered the consequences of a difficult rollout. They should not now be asked to shoulder additional uncertainty stemming from potential corporate restructuring, divestiture, or reduced investment in the business unit responsible for supporting the system.

Accordingly, I respectfully request clarification on the following:

- Whether Oracle is actively considering the sale, divestiture, or restructuring of Oracle Health?
- How would any such transaction affect Oracle's contractual obligations, staffing levels, leadership continuity, and investment commitments supporting the VA EHR modernization program, including support for currently live sites such as Walla Walla?
- What assurances, if any, can Oracle provide that veterans' access to reliable, secure, and interoperable health records—and uninterrupted clinical care—will not be adversely affected, particularly at facilities that have already experienced significant implementation challenges?

Ensuring continuity and accountability in the VA EHR modernization program is essential to honoring our nation's commitment to those who have served. In light of the documented concerns in my district and the importance of maintaining safe and dependable care for veterans, I appreciate your prompt attention to these questions and look forward to your response by March 27, 2026.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Jane Scarborough on my staff at jane.scarborough@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael Baumgartner
Member of Congress