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U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

July 30, 2014

The Honorable Robert A. McDonald
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

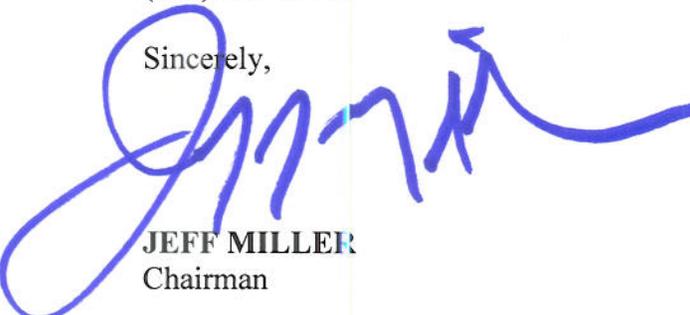
Dear Secretary McDonald,

On June 3, 2014, I wrote a letter to then-Acting Secretary Sloan Gibson regarding the lack of appropriate disciplinary action being taken against VA supervisors who have been involved in waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement within VA. In that letter, which I have attached for your convenience, I requested that the VA begin providing the Committee with weekly updates on all adverse employment actions being initiated against VA employees, officials, and contractors. I requested that the first production of such information be provided to the Committee by Friday, June 6, 2014. To date, we have received no information regarding this request.

Yesterday, the VA issued a press release describing how it has proposed disciplinary action against six employees at the Cheyenne VA Medical Center and Fort Collins Community-Based Outpatient Clinic. Considering that the attached letter requesting such information be provided to the Committee on a weekly basis is still active and in a nonresponsive state, please provide that information by **close of business on August 8, 2014**. Please include in the requested chart of information all disciplinary actions that have been initiated since I issued the original letter on June 3 as well.

I look forward to working with you in your new role as Secretary. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jon Towers, Staff Director of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, at (202) 225-3527.

Sincerely,



JEFF MILLER
Chairman

JM/jh

Attachments

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June 3, 2014

The Honorable Sloan Gibson
 Acting Secretary
 U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 810 Vermont Ave. NW
 Washington, DC 20420

Dear Acting Secretary Gibson,

As Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, I remain extremely concerned about the appointment scheduling scandal that led to the resignation of Secretary Shinseki last week. As a result of the widespread use of deceptive scheduling practices at VA medical facilities, it is clear that veterans' health has been seriously jeopardized nationwide. Accordingly, I have asked the Attorney General to open an investigation by the Department of Justice and to prosecute all individuals in the VA who are found responsible.

Accountability also requires disciplinary action within the VA including termination from employment when appropriate. I expect that there are few if any excuses that would prevent termination of supervisors or managers involved.

Previously, I asked for information about adverse employment action regarding officials involved in the Legionella outbreak and resulting veteran deaths in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and the colonoscopy delays and resulting veteran deaths in Augusta, Georgia and Columbia, South Carolina. This information was not forthcoming.

I am hopeful that you will now exert the necessary leadership to remove all impediments to cooperation with Congressional oversight.

Pursuant to the congressional oversight authority of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I hereby request the following information to be provided to me on a weekly basis:

The names and position titles of all employees, officials, and contractors with the VA, including VHA and VBA, for whom adverse employment action has been initiated on any basis related to patient scheduling, record manipulation, appointment delays, and/or patient deaths. For each such instance, please include the date adverse employment action was proposed and any changes in status such as when the employment action is finalized and when it is made effective.

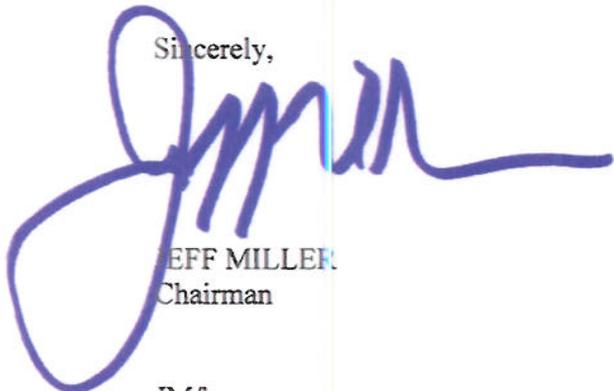
Please also describe the type of each action, including but not limited to, terminations, removals, resignations (under investigation or in lieu of other adverse action), retirements (under investigation or in lieu of adverse action), suspensions (with and without pay), reassignments, relocations, and placement on administrative leave (with and without pay).

The first chart with this information is due by Friday, June 6.

I look forward to working with you to address our veterans' health care needs and to remedy the serious crisis in confidence in the VA.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jon Towers, Staff Director of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, at (202) 225-3527.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Miller', with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

JEFF MILLER
Chairman

JM/hr