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ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

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July 10, 2015

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

Dear Secretary McDonald,

In accordance with ongoing investigations of issues within the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and for legislative purposes, I am inquiring into the status of veterans whose names remain on the pending healthcare eligibility list.

I am concerned that more than 800,000 veterans are still waiting for their healthcare applications to be processed. Further, a number of the veterans still on this list appear to be deceased, and it is my understanding that a number of veterans have had their healthcare expire due to inaction by VA.

Please provide a current, accurate number of veterans on the pending health care eligibility list. In addition, please provide the total number of veterans with a health care application in a pending status that also have a date of death on file with either the Veterans Benefits Administration, the Social Security Administration or any other federal agency. Finally, please inform this Subcommittee what actions VA is taking to resolve this backlog, to ensure the availability of VA healthcare for eligible veterans and to prevent veterans from losing their healthcare status due to VA's inaction.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Eric Hannel, Majority Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations, at (202) 225-3569.

Sincerely,



MIKE COFFMAN

Chairman

Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigation

MC/ac