

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 10, 2023

The Honorable Denis R. McDonough
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough:

As the Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I look forward to working with you to ensure veterans are cared for in a manner worthy of their service to our country. I write to request your cooperation with the Committee and my staff as we carry out our constitutional oversight responsibility. As Chairman, I am committed to overseeing implementation of the landmark, bipartisan expansions of veterans' health care and benefits in recent years, while rooting out mismanagement and waste of taxpayer dollars. In order to do that, I rely on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to honor the Committee's requests for information and documents within its jurisdiction in a timely fashion.

The congressional oversight powers, rooted in Article I of the Constitution, are "broad and indispensable."¹ The authority "encompasses inquiries into the administration of existing laws, studies of proposed law, and surveys of defects in our societal, economic, or political system for the purpose of enabling the Congress to remedy them."² The Committee is authorized to conduct oversight on all matters related to VA and its functions pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives.³

Over the past several months, we have made numerous requests that remain outstanding. I ask that you provide the following information no later than **Friday, January 27, 2023**. When producing documents, do not alter them in any way, including but not limited to application of redactions or a watermark. Additionally, digital copies should be provided in a format that enables their printing and copying by the Committee:

- All VA Office of General Counsel cease-and-desist letters sent to unaccredited claims representatives from December 22, 2006, to January 1, 2017.
- All VA Office of General Counsel cease-and-desist letters sent to unaccredited claims representatives from May 20, 2022, to the present.
- A list of all unaccredited representatives and/or organizations referred to federal, state, local, or other law enforcement entities based on cease-and-desist letters from December 22, 2006, to the present.

¹ See, e.g., *Trump v. Mazars LLP*, No. 19-715 at 11 (U.S. slip op. July 9, 2020) (citing *Watkins v. United States*, 354 U.S. 178, 187, 215 (1957)) (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

² *Id.*

³ Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2021).

- A list, disaggregated by year, of federal, state, local, or other law enforcement entities' inquiries to VA related to unaccredited claims representatives.
- The detailed timeline and plan for all future Digital GI Bill releases after the January 2023 enrollment manager delay and information as to how each release will be communicated to VA employees and relevant stakeholders.
- The comprehensive master plan and strategy outlining the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center's housing expansion to house veterans in new facilities.
- The Institute for Defense Analysis's final report, commissioned by VA, on the Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) program's life cycle cost estimate.
- When VA determines to proceed with major acquisitions, including modernized supply chain and human capital management systems, all programmatic documents submitted and reviewed in the approval of the acquisitions.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mike Bost
Chairman
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Cc: The Honorable Mark Takano, Ranking Member, Committee on Veterans' Affairs