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U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

364 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

May 7, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, after hearing from dozens of credible Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Loma Linda Health Care System (VA Loma Linda) employees and whistleblowers, I sent you a letter on September 18, 2023 requesting documents for my investigation into alleged misconduct and a hostile work place perpetuated by VA Loma Linda senior leadership. After reviewing the documents that your office made available months later, I sent an additional letter, on March 22, 2024, because of my extreme concern about the work environment at VA Loma Linda and the safety of employees and veterans.

The enclosed March 22, 2024 letter includes my ask that by April 19, 2024 the Department provide me information about the discipline and performance plans for individuals who had serious harassment, relationships with patients, and pharmaceutical stealing allegations substantiated against them by VA's own investigations. These substantiated allegations are incredibly serious, further, I understand that the individuals in question are likely still employed by VA. I am concerned that these individuals are still walking VA Loma Linda's halls, collecting a paycheck, and interacting with our nation's veterans despite the substantiated misconduct against them. I trust you would agree that our veterans deserve a harassment free environment to seek care and services, no matter what.

I ask that you immediately respond to my March 22, 2024 letter. A response is vital to ensuring Congress has proper oversight of this situation so that we can work with you to ensure VA Loma Linda is a facility free of unacceptable danger to VA's dedicated workforce and the veterans they serve.

Sincerely,

MIKE BOST
 Chairman

Cc: The Honorable Mark Takano, Ranking Member

Enclosure: Letter sent from Chairman Bost to Secretary McDonough, March 22, 2024

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MATT REEL
 DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

March 22, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

After hearing credible allegations from dozens of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Loma Linda Health Care System (VA Loma Linda) employees and whistleblowers, I sent you a letter on September 18, 2023 requesting documents for my investigation into alleged misconduct and a hostile work place perpetuated by VA Loma Linda senior leadership. After reviewing the documents that your office made available months later, on December 13, 2023, I am extremely concerned about the work environment at Loma Linda and the safety of employees and veterans. As you know, such a poor environment directly impacts the delivery of care and services to our veterans. To further investigate these allegations, please provide, no later than **Friday, April 19, 2024**, responses to the following questions:

1. Please provide copies of all memoranda and final documents related to proposed or actual disciplinary actions, taken since 2015, against the following VA Loma Linda employees: Nestor Troncoso-Rosario, James Smith, Jeffrey Samuels, Ricardo Noriega, Franklin Lim, Newton Agrawal, Jonathan Nunez, Anthony Torres, George Lewis, John Bischler, Mark Jones, Chris Walker, Mandy Miller, and Ron Williams.
2. Please provide copies of the two most recent performance plans for the following VA Loma Linda employees: Nestor Troncoso-Rosario, James Smith, Jeffrey Samuels, Ricardo Noriega, Franklin Lim, Newton Agrawal, Jonathan Nunez, Anthony Torres, George Lewis, John Bischler, Mark Jones, Chris Walker, Mandy Miller, and Ron Williams.
3. Please provide a copy of the full aggregate survey results and any summary report of the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection's (OAWP's) FY2024 Climate Review of VA Loma Linda.

Mr. Secretary, I am confident that you agree that no VA employee should be subjected to harassment or a hostile work environment. Our nation's veterans deserve the highest quality healthcare, and this is simply impossible when the employees tasked with this important mission

are unable to perform their job due to bad leadership. I am hopeful that you will respond promptly to this letter so that we can continue to ensure that no VA employee or veteran is subject to a poor environment at VA Loma Linda.

When producing documents, please 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 House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Please do not hesitate to have your staff contact James Whittaker, Republican Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, at james.whittaker@mail.house.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,



MIKE BOST
Chairman

Cc: The Honorable Mark Takano, Ranking Member