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COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

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July 22, 2024

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

Dear Secretary McDonough:

The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) apparent disregard for the oversight authority of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs (Committee) regarding VA's implementation of Executive Order (EO) 14019, "*Promoting Access to Voting*" is very troubling. The Committee sent an initial request for information on June 14, 2024, then followed up on that request and sought a briefing on this issue on June 26, 2024. VA has not answered these requests. I then sent a letter on July 9, 2024, further detailing my concerns on the subject, informing VA of the Committee's ongoing investigation, and again requesting information about VA's implementation of EO 14019. More than a month has passed, and VA has yet to respond to a single question or schedule the requested briefing.

Pursuant to the Committee's legislative and oversight jurisdiction over the administration of VA and its operations, *see* House Rule X.1(s), Rules of the House of Representatives, 118th Cong. (2023), the Committee seeks information regarding VA's EO 14019 implementation—including information on VA's activities as a voter registration agency in key battleground states like Pennsylvania and Michigan. I am concerned VA is becoming a voter registration agency and potentially working with third-party organizations to facilitate voter registration at VA facilities. This is clearly not within the mission of the Department. Committee oversight is necessary to ensure VA is not misusing its resources to perform functions it has never done and that are outside its core statutory mission of caring for veterans. Given VA's actions,¹ and the apparent indifference displayed towards legitimate Committee oversight, I am concerned VA may be inappropriately using its resources to implement EO 14019. This is even more troubling considering VA recently announced an anticipated \$15 billion budget shortfall for fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

Congress's role in conducting oversight is crucial to the democratic process and cannot be fulfilled without all relevant information. As such, please respond to the previous requests for information, propose a date and time for a briefing on this topic, and respond to my letter no later than **July 25, 2024**. If VA does not fully comply with these requests, the Committee will consider using compulsory process to obtain the necessary information.

Sincerely,

MIKE BOST
 Chairman

Cc: The Honorable Mark Takano, Ranking Member

¹ Press Release, Chairman Mike Bost, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Chairman Bost to VA: Your Mission is Veterans, Not Elections (July 11, 2024).