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**U.S. House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

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October 15, 2024

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

Dear Secretary McDonough:

I am writing to you regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) failure to comply with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs' (the Committee's) recent subpoena.<sup>1</sup> Over a month has passed since the Committee issued a subpoena requiring VA to produce documents related to VA's Executive Order (EO) 14019 implementation and VA's related interagency agreement with the Michigan Department of State (MDOS). The deadline for VA to produce this information was September 27, 2024. Disappointingly, VA has yet to deliver a single document.

VA's complete disregard of its obligation to respond to the Committee's subpoena is unacceptable, but not surprising. The Committee has sought information related to VA's EO 14019 implementation and partnership with MDOS since June 2024.<sup>2</sup> Over the next two months, the Committee reiterated its requests to VA in three different letters.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, instead of full transparency with the Committee as VA recently claimed, VA only produced eight pages of documents directly related to the Committee's inquiry.<sup>4</sup> VA could not even provide answers to Committee staff's questions during a briefing provided to Committee staff on EO 14019.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See Letter from Mike Bost, Chairman, H. Comm. on Veterans' Aff. to the Hon. Denis McDonough, Sec'y U.S. Dep't of Veterans Aff. (Sept. 12, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> On June 14 and June 26, 2024, Committee staff sent VA requests for information regarding EO 14019.

<sup>3</sup> See Letter from Mike Bost, Chairman, H. Comm. on Veterans' Aff. to the Hon. Denis McDonough, Sec'y U.S. Dep't of Veterans Aff. (July 9, 2024); Letter from Mike Bost, Chairman, H. Comm. on Veterans' Aff. to the Hon. Denis McDonough, Sec'y U.S. Dep't of Veterans Aff. (July 22, 2024); and Letter from Mike Bost, Chairman, H. Comm. on Veterans' Aff. to the Hon. Denis McDonough, Sec'y U.S. Dep't of Veterans Aff. (Aug. 12, 2024).

<sup>4</sup> See Letter from the Hon. Denis McDonough, Sec'y U.S. Dep't of Veterans Aff. to Mike Bost, Chairman, H. Comm. on Veterans' Aff. (Oct. 2, 2024) (stating "VA has been fully transparent with the Committee regarding its activities to assist Veterans in voting.").

<sup>5</sup> After several requests from Committee staff, VA provided a briefing on EO 14019 to Committee staff on September 5, 2024.

This lack of transparency led the Committee to take the rare step of issuing a subpoena, however, not even this has led VA to be more transparent. Instead, VA continues to give excuses for not providing the Committee with the requested information. The information the Committee seeks from the subpoena is not a surprise to VA. Much of the information sought is information the Committee requested in June 2024. VA has had at least four months to produce this information. Further, many requests outlined in the subpoena involve documents VA should have readily available. Despite this, VA has failed to provide the Committee with a single document.

The Committee has broad legislative and oversight jurisdiction over the administration of VA and its operations per House Rule X.1(s). VA's failure to respond to the Committee's subpoena undermines the Committee's investigation into VA's implementation of EO 14019 and its partnership with MDOS. VA's consistent failure to cooperate with the Committee's investigation is extremely concerning. I expect that, moving forward, VA will begin to provide documents to the Committee as it is obliged to do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Bost", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**MIKE BOST**  
Chairman

Cc: The Honorable Mark Takano, Ranking Member