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U.S. House of Representatives**COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

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January 13, 2012

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
 The President of the United States of America
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

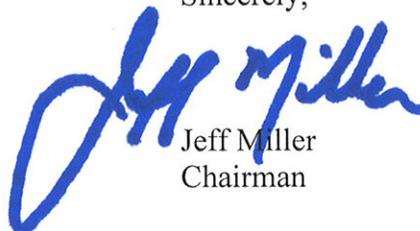
I am writing to ask for your Administration's cooperation in resolving the legal ambiguity that exists surrounding the effect sequestration may have on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Although I personally believe that any such ambiguity ought to be resolved in favor of a wholesale exemption of all VA programs, only you (through the Office of Management and Budget) can definitively resolve the matter. To date, your Administration has not provided any clarity despite numerous requests from me and other Committee members to do so.

At a November 15, 2011, hearing before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, VA's Chief Financial Officer, Mr. W. Todd Grams, told me that he was hopeful a decision regarding sequestration and its impact on VA would be made "shortly." In response to questions from other Committee members Mr. Grams stated that he would get for the Committee the date VA sent its own legal review regarding the sequestration laws to the Office of Management and Budget. He also said he would make the request for that legal review to be provided to the Committee. Finally, post-hearing questions sent out on November 30, 2011, requested all of this information to be delivered by January 11, 2012. Still, we are waiting for answers.

Mr. President, I am hopeful, as you are, that sequestration will never be necessary. However, all Americans, especially our veterans, deserve to understand the ramifications if sequestration is ever imposed. I ask you to personally look into this issue and, as I have, resolve any ambiguity that exists in favor of an exemption of all VA programs.

Thank you for your attention to my request. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Jeff Miller
 Chairman