

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 13, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

After viewing the unacceptable video of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) attorney Ms. Shekeba Morrad mocking Israelis who are asking for the return of hostages taken by Hamas terrorists, we are seriously concerned VA is not doing enough to ensure Ms. Morrad is held accountable for her disturbing conduct.

The Committee's initial investigation indicates Ms. Morrad is still employed in her attorney role and is still receiving full compensation while VA does a "fact-finding" of the matter. This is unacceptable. As an attorney in VA's Benefits Law Group, Ms. Morrad makes key decisions that affect the benefits all veterans – including the many proud Jewish veterans who have protected and defended our great nation – receive. We are concerned Ms. Morrad's blatant antisemitism, which she exposed in her online video, could have affected, and could continue to affect, veterans of the Jewish faith. VA must not allow such bias to continue, which is why it is unacceptable Ms. Morrad has not been detailed to a different position while VA conducts its investigation.

Additionally, we are worried VA's investigation, like many of its investigations the Committee has performed oversight of, will be untimely and result in minimal consequences. Ms. Morrad's conduct was abhorrent and has no place at VA. We demand you prioritize a speedy investigation of Ms. Morrad and provide the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs all documents associated with the fact-finding, its recommendation, and any disciplinary actions taken.

I am sure you agree the allegations surrounding this issue are extremely concerning and require immediate attention by your Department. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



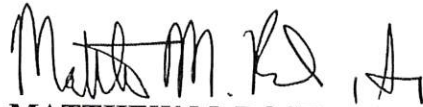
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Chairman
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs



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NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS
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RANDY FEENSTRA
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Mark Takano, Ranking Member