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ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

June 5, 2014

The Honorable Sloan D. Gibson  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Ave. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Gibson:

Like many of my constituents, I was outraged to see the recently released interim report published by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) regarding the investigation of the Phoenix Health Care System where 1,700 veterans were omitted from within the VA Electronic Waiting List (EWL). Accusations of similar practices have emerged from within the VA system in Albuquerque, New Mexico where there were alleged efforts to disguise high patient demand at the VA, where as many as 3,000 patients who needed a primary care physician were placed in a "phantom" panel.

In light of the report by the OIG, as well as claims arising out of the New Mexico VA, our office is now reviewing our past and present Veterans health care casework to determine if any cases that did not result in a favorable outcome were due to problems discovered within the VA. I have serious concerns that the deplorable actions in the Phoenix Health Care System are widespread within the VA system and that Veterans in New Mexico have been impacted by gross misconduct. Therefore, I am formally requesting an audit on all casework concerning the VA that is currently open with my office. In addition, as my office continues to review casework that has been closed in the past, I also request an audit of questionable cases we discover.

It is essential that the VA act immediately to address any improper actions that have taken place and ensure that our veterans are receiving the care they deserve. Thank you for your attention to this matter and please keep me apprised of all findings and developments regarding this important issue.

Sincerely,

Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress

Cc: Dr. James Robbins, Interim Director, New Mexico VA Health Care System

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