

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 29, 2014

Judy McKee
Director
William S. Middleton
Memorial Veterans Hospital
2500 Overlook Terrace
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

Dear Director McKee,

Since reports exposing fraud and fake waiting lists in Phoenix, Arizona, we have been deeply disturbed to hear about the negligent treatment and care of our veterans at Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities across the country. While we are glad that the VA was quick to launch an internal investigation, more needs to be done.

The VA inspector general's audit confirmed incidences of data manipulation to hide long wait times throughout the VA health care system and more than 57,000 veterans have been waiting at least ninety days for medical care. Long wait times for care can never be the norm for our veterans and if any efforts were made to conceal the extent of the problem, we must hold those responsible immediately.

After repeated visits across the state and many conversations with Wisconsin veterans, we remain convinced that our Wisconsin facilities continue to provide quality care. Nonetheless, we in Congress need to identify the problems and steps necessary to ensure all veterans have timely access to the care they deserve. With this sense of duty, we reach out to request information about how Congress can assist you in meeting the needs of our growing veteran population. How can we be helpful to your facility as the VA works through prioritizing patient needs, decreasing wait times and getting our VA health facilities back on track?

Together, we can get to the bottom of this and ensure that our veterans are receiving the best care possible. We look forward to working with you and our colleagues so that the men and women serving in our armed forces receive the quality care they deserve. It is our promise to leave no veteran behind.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress