

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1317

May 28, 2014

The Honorable Eric Holder, Jr. Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I write with great concern about reported allegations of potential criminal activity by one or more government officials within the Department of Veterans Affairs, Phoenix Health Care System (HCS). Allegations at the Phoenix HCS include gross mismanagement of VA resources and criminal misconduct by VA senior hospital leadership, creating patient safety concerns and even the possibility of wrongful deaths.

The Department of Justice (DoJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have the authority, knowledge, and resources to perform an effective criminal investigation of the serious allegations and potential cover ups that may have occurred within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

The possibility that veterans have been suffering and dying due to excessive wait times for medical appointments, whether due to intentional action or inaction of VA officials, is unacceptable, unconscionable and potentially criminal.

Our nation's veterans, past, present, and future, deserve the best possible healthcare without bureaucratic delays and a gamed system. In light of these ongoing concerns, I urge you to utilize all available resources, including the FBI, to support possible criminal investigations into this issue. If the allegations are founded, I urge you to ensure the guilty parties are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress