

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2014

Dear Director Helman,

We are writing to express great concerns with the indications that under your leadership thousands of Phoenix area veterans were not given the quality of care that they needed and deserved. Under your leadership, a 'secret list' or second set of books was kept, holding the official number of days that veterans waited for service artificially low. Because of you and your leadership team's choices, forty or more veterans have died due to lack of care.

The reports that are surfacing are extremely disturbing and do a great disservice to our veterans. Our Phoenix VA Health Care System (PVAHCS) serves veterans from conflicts spanning much of our country's history, and whose selfless service earned them the right to receive timely and adequate care from your facility. Our nation's service members and veterans should feel confident in our veteran health care system. Sadly, you and senior leadership at the PVAHCS have shattered that trust with our nation's heroes.

The mistakes made by the PVAHCS cannot be undone, but drastic changes need to be made to ensure that this never happens again. In order to begin to restore faith in the veteran's health care system, department executives who were aware of and presided over this unethical and alarming mismanagement must be held accountable. It is for this reason we demand that you and the leadership team at PVAHCS resign from all leadership positions.

Sincerely,



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2014

Dear Secretary Shinseki,

We are writing to express great concerns over reports of gross mismanagement at the Phoenix VA Health Care System (PVAHCS) facility. As you are aware, recent reports indicate that thousands of veterans were forced to wait on a secret list, some for over 200 days, before receiving proper care. As a direct result of such practices, the deaths of over forty veterans have come to light.

These reports are extremely disturbing, and are a great disservice to our veterans. After our young men and women give so much in service to this country, they should be able to rely on our VA Health Care Systems to provide them with the timely and adequate care they need. Sadly, senior leadership at the PVAHCS has shattered that trust with our nation's heroes.

Swift action is necessary to salvage what faith is left in the VA system. Failure to hold employees and executives accountable will only further erode belief that the Department of Veterans Affairs' and the Veterans Health Administrations' focus is on caring for our nation's veterans. Department executives who were aware of and presided over this unethical and alarming mismanagement must be held accountable.

It is for this reason we ask that you remove the leadership team at PVAHCS from their position, immediately.

Sincerely,



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress