



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

November 13, 2015

Victoria P. Brahm
Acting Medical Center Director
Tomah VA Medical Center
500 E Veterans St,
Tomah, WI 54660

Dear Ms. Brahm:

I am extremely concerned about recent reports that the Tomah VA Medical Center has failed to ensure that our nation's veterans are receiving care from doctors who are properly licensed and certified to provide health services. According to a recent KARE 11 news investigation, the Veterans Health Administration has repeatedly posted inaccurate and misleading information on its website concerning the competency and ability of its doctors to provide veterans with the care they deserve. It is troubling to think that the men and women who wore the uniform of the United States Armed Forces would be treated by doctors who should not be wearing a lab coat.

Despite claims that the VA's website has been reviewed and updated, investigators uncovered numerous examples of doctors who have been inaccurately listed as licensed and certified. A simple cross reference of the VA's website with public records kept by state licensing authorities and trusted medical boards shows that several doctors either never had or lost the licenses and medical certifications which the VA claimed they had. While I could understand one or two mistakes like this, the fact that there are numerous known examples demonstrates a systematic failure at the VA to ensure that its records are updated at a minimum, or at worst an effort to conceal basic yet essential information from our veterans which could compromise their care. Accordingly, I request answers to the following questions:

- 1) When did the VA find out about the misinformation on its website?
- 2) What actions were taken when the VA was made aware of this and when were those actions taken?
- 3) Have patients been notified about their physician's license denials, or inaccurate information regarding their certifications?
- 4) Was patient care impacted because of a physician's license denial or lack of updated certification?
- 5) Has there been a review of other current health care providers and their licenses and certifications?
- 6) What is current practice to ensure that all health care providers are up to date with license and certification?

- 7) Were any doctors inaccurately listed as licensed or certified on the VA's website compensated at an amount based on the inaccurate information listed?

Please provide answers to these questions and any supporting documents not later than November 27th. If you have any questions, or would like to provide these answers in electronic form, please contact Lindsay Gill in my office at lindsay.gill@mail.house.gov or 202-225-3365.

Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Sincerely,



Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress

cc: David J. Shulkin, M.D.
Under Secretary for Health
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20420