

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 13, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Miller  
Chairman  
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
335 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Corrine Brown  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
333 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member Brown:

In light of the recent reports regarding the Tomah Veterans' Affairs (VA) Medical Center over-prescribing of opiates, we would like to request a field hearing in Tomah, Wisconsin with the undersigned members invited to attend.

Complaints began in 2011 regarding opiate prescriptions and tension between the pharmacists and Dr. David Houlihan. The VA Office of Inspector General (IG) launched an investigation into the allegations, and found the amount of opiates prescribed at Tomah unusually high. The IG also found a dysfunctional relationship between the pharmacists at Tomah and the doctor in question. This is of serious concern when considering the intimidation and retaliation tactics reported by former employees at the pharmacy. The IG completed their investigation in March of 2014, and administratively closed the case rather than provide a copy to your committee or to the Members of Congress whose constituents are served by Tomah. News of the IG investigation came to light in January of 2015, and we still have many unanswered questions.

While we are pleased the VA has launched an internal investigation, it is in Congress' best interest to learn all we can about what went wrong at Tomah and prevent this situation from happening at other facilities. One veteran dying of an overdose is too many. We ask the Committee to investigate VA's prescription practices as a whole, and we believe Tomah can serve as an example to ensure this never happens again.

Sincerely,



Sean P. Duffy  
Member of Congress



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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Ron Kind  
Member of Congress