

JOHN McCAIN
ARIZONA

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

January 13, 2016

The Honorable Robert McDonald
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue
Washington, DC 20420

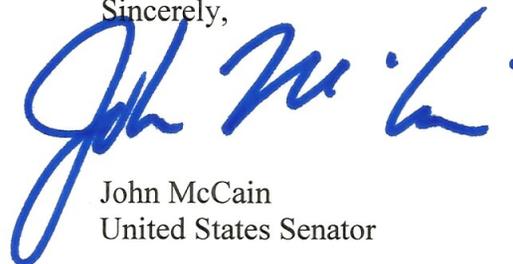
Dear Secretary McDonald,

I write regarding recent news that two senior Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) officials accused of mismanagement and misconduct at the Phoenix VA Health Care System are returning to work at the VA. While they will allegedly be working at the regional headquarters office instead of at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center, I am disturbed that the VA has allowed these important cases to languish for more than a year and a half without resolution. I do not understand why these two cases have been allowed to be delayed for this long under your leadership. Please provide my office with a detailed explanation of these delays and timely and accurate update on the status of all current or former Phoenix VA Health Care System officials currently suspended or on paid leave awaiting an administrative decision or other personnel action.

Also, I continue to be disappointed in testimony you and your representatives have made on Capitol Hill regarding the VA's inability to terminate or reprimand officials responsible for the deaths of veterans. During the recent Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing on health care and accountability at the Phoenix VA Health Care System, senior VA officials repeatedly gave inaccurate testimony to my questions on why no actions have been taken against these officials. Inasmuch as there is still no explanation for these delays, the fact that the VA has subsequently corrected this testimony is hardly reassuring to veterans interested in accountability. Further, the return of these two officials to work elsewhere in the VA pending their investigation implies that there are no actions expected against these individuals in the near future.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator

225 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0303
(202) 224-2235

2201 EAST CAMELBACK ROAD
SUITE 115
PHOENIX, AZ 85016
(602) 952-2410

122 NORTH CORTEZ STREET
SUITE 108
PRESCOTT, AZ 86301
(928) 445-0833

407 WEST CONGRESS STREET
SUITE 103
TUCSON, AZ 85701
(520) 670-6334

TELEPHONE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED
(602) 952-0170