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United States Senate

October 2, 2015

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

Dear Secretary McDonald,

I am writing to you regarding the disturbing findings from the VA Office of Inspector General (IG) regarding the abuse of relocation and incentive programs at the VA.

The IG's report, which shows that bureaucrats at the VA manipulated the system to steal hundreds of thousands of dollars in undeserved benefits, including \$300,000 in moving expenses to move an employee from Washington D.C. to Philadelphia, is a new low for senior leaders of the VA. It is even more troubling that senior executives at the VA are encouraging this unacceptable behavior, which has already cost the Veterans Benefits Administration more than \$1.8 million in taxpayer dollars to reassign executives for lower level and less demanding jobs with higher salaries. It is abundantly clear that your employees at the VA were gaming the system to benefit themselves while veterans languished and died awaiting care.

As the agency entrusted with caring for American service members, it is simply unacceptable that corrupt bureaucrats at the VA continue to abuse their positions and expand the culture of corruption that led to the scandal of gross mismanagement and neglect of our veterans.

Secretary McDonald, when we met in my office to consider your confirmation to be VA Secretary, you assured me that you would clean up the VA. You have the statutory authority given to you by Congress in the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 and I urge you to use it and take action immediately to hold personnel accountable for this severe senior leadership failure discovered by the IG.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator

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