

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

June 2, 2014

Mr. Kenneth H. Mizrach  
Director  
VA New Jersey Health Care System  
385 Tremont Avenue  
East Orange, NJ 07018

Dear Director Mizrach:

In the past month, reports have surfaced about a secret appointment waiting list to mask the actual amount of time veterans were waiting to receive health care services at the Veterans Affairs (VA) facility in Phoenix. In a preliminary report from the investigation into these allegations, the VA inspector general reported that an additional 1,700 veterans who were waiting for a primary care appointment were not on the appropriate electronic waiting list. Additionally, the inspector general found that the average wait times for an initial primary care appointment was 115 days.

Unfortunately, similar concerns have been raised at VA facilities throughout the United States. The VA inspector general's report confirms that there is evidence of systemic problems throughout the VA. It is unacceptable that individuals who have sacrificed for our nation are not receiving the care they deserve. As such, we are concerned about New Jersey veterans' ability to access appropriate and necessary medical care.

We are seeking clarification on a number of questions surrounding this issue: (1) How many veterans are currently on the wait list for appointments at the facilities under your direction? (2) How long is the average wait time for New Jersey veterans to receive an appointment at facilities under your direction? (3) What safe guards are in place to ensure that all veterans are placed on the appropriate electronic waitlist? (4) Have there been any reported incidents of wait time and data manipulation at facilities under your direction?

Given that this issue is of great importance to those New Jersey veterans and their families, we look forward to your timely response. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



SCOTT GARRETT  
Member of Congress



LEONARD LANCE  
Member of Congress



BILL PASCRELL, JR.  
Member of Congress



CHRIS SMITH  
Member of Congress



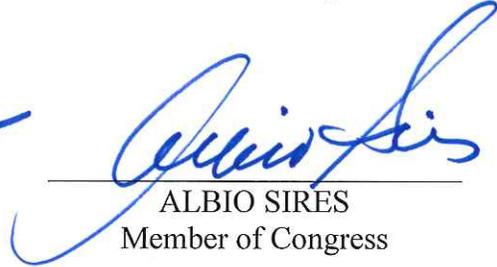
FRANK PALLONE  
Member of Congress



FRANK A. LOBIONDO  
Member of Congress



RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN  
Member of Congress



ALBIO SIRES  
Member of Congress



JON RUNYAN  
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Member of Congress



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