



Natalie E. Tennant

Secretary of State
State of West Virginia

May 22, 2014

Acting Inspector General Richard J. Griffin
Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Inspector General
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Mr. Griffin,

I write to urge you to include West Virginia VA facilities in the ongoing investigations into wait times alleged to have contributed to the harm, and even death, of American veterans.

West Virginia is blessed with many quality and caring health professionals who work hard every day to provide the best possible care to West Virginia veterans. But, it is clear that systemic flaws in the VA itself are keeping too many veterans from getting the care they deserve. West Virginia veterans, their families, and our VA health professionals deserve a thorough investigation that will allow us to identify problems where they exist, hold responsible parties accountable where appropriate, and take action to ensure we are delivering veterans the highest standard of care.

Specifically, a recent report by Fox News alleges that wait times for mental health care at the Huntington VA Medical Center in Huntington, West Virginia, may have contributed to the suicide of at least two patients.

West Virginians deserve answers and as their Secretary of State who works closely with veterans and our military, I demand them.

West Virginians are among the first to answer the call to serve. I ask you now to answer their call for the thorough investigation they deserve.

I look forward to your swift response and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Natalie E. Tennant".

Natalie E. Tennant

West Virginia Secretary of State