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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 15, 2018

The Honorable Michael J. Missal
Office of Inspector General
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Missal,

As you know, with strong bipartisan support, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act in June of 2017. Since that time, Congress has not received sufficient information about the implementation of this law from VA, including data mandated by statute. Therefore, we request that the Office of Inspector General conduct a thorough review of the matter to ensure implementation is being carried out consistent with law and Congressional intent.

In December 2017, VA was mandated to submit a report to congress that would include information and data about implementation of this law. Unfortunately, the "report" was unacceptable, as it did not include any of the requested tracking data sought by Congress as a benchmark for the implementation of the law moving forward. VA indicated that their inability to provide the Congress with this data was due to the lack of an appropriate tracking software. We have subsequently learned that this software has been acquired and implemented, yet Congress still lacks this information.

In the interim, we have had numerous VA employees and their representatives contact our offices about the law's implementation, indicating that the authorities provided by the law are being used in an inconsistent and inappropriate manner. Unfortunately, VA still has not been able to provide us with data that would alleviate our concerns or demonstrate in any way that application of these authorities has been consistent, fair, and appropriate.

For that reason, we request that the OIG undertake a review of how VA has implemented this law and to provide a report back to the Committee on Veterans Affairs. We would appreciate the opportunity to have further conversations about the scope of the review in the coming weeks.


Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator