

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL WASHINGTON, DC 20420



May 18, 2021

The Honorable Chris Pappas Chairman. Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Committee on Veterans' Affairs U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Subcommittee on April 21, 2021, to discuss H.R. 2428, Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act of 2021. We look forward to working with the Subcommittee to move this important legislation.

At the hearing Congressman Sablan requested information regarding an inquiry from his office that he believed was sent to the Office of Inspector General and that was not answered. I responded that I was unfamiliar with the inquiry but would look into it and provide information for the hearing record.

Since the hearing, we worked with Congressman Sablan's office to obtain additional information. His staff recently informed us that the inquiry was directed to the Office of the Special Counsel (OSC) and not the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG). We discussed with Congressman Sablan's staff that because OSC is an independent agency, the VA OIG would not be involved in their response to him.

We respectfully request that this letter be included in the hearing record. If you need additional information, please contact Catherine Gromek, Executive Director, Congressional Relations Division, VA OIG, at Catherine. Gromek@va.gov or (202) 461-4527.

Thank you for your interest in the VA OIG.

Sincerely,

/s/

CHRISTOPHER A. WILBER Counselor to the Inspector General

Copy to: Rep. Tracey Mann, Ranking Member

Rep Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan