

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2017

The Honorable Phil Roe, M.D.
Chairman
House Veterans' Affairs Committee
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Bergman
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Roe and Chairman Bergman:

Thank you for your continued leadership on veterans' issues. We write regarding several recent revelations at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital (Bedford VA) in Bedford, Massachusetts.


Over the past several months, a series of news articles have exposed serious issues within the Bedford VA and its affiliated transitional program, the Crescent House. Although the hospital has a five-star rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), recent reports show that several VA employees have expressed concerns regarding patient safety. Current Bedford VA employees and family members of patients have claimed that veterans living in long-term care buildings on the Bedford VA campus have gone without food for extended periods of time or left in soiled clothes and bed linens for hours. This same reporting notes that the oldest buildings on the hospital campus contain asbestos in the walls, ceilings, and floors, exposing veterans and VA employees to potentially dangerous conditions.

This week, the *Boston Globe* reported that a veteran died last year when a hospital employee failed to conduct scheduled rounds and instead played video games on her computer. The VA Office of the Inspector General currently has at least two investigations involving the Bedford VA: a criminal investigation to identify systemic failings that may have led to the aforementioned patient's death and another regarding drug dealing by a ring of employees and patients at the Bedford hospital.

Congress has an obligation to ensure our veterans are receiving the best healthcare in the world, which they have rightfully earned. We understand the Committee hosted a field hearing at the VA Medical Center in Manchester, New Hampshire in September and request that the Committee hold a similar field hearing at the Bedford VA to examine and help resolve these serious issues.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



NIKI TSONGAS
Member of Congress



KATHERINE CLARK
Member of Congress