

Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Congresswoman Carol Miller (WV-3)

Statement for the Record

Wednesday, October 16th, 2019, at 2:00pm

Thank you, Chairman Pappas and Ranking Member Bergman for holding this hearing today.

It is of utmost importance that we continue to provide and maintain the highest quality of care for the men and women who have bravely served our country.

The deaths at Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center in Clarksburg, West Virginia and the sexual assault allegations at Beckley, West Virginia VA Medical Center are troubling and unacceptable. As Members of Congress, it is our job to support swift and proper investigations to ensure that such instances never happen again.

There has been considerable progress with the quality of care that our veterans receive following the enactment of the MISSION Act and efforts to address the veteran's suicide epidemic. Our service members should feel safe and comfortable seeking care at the VA, and these events show that there needs to be additional oversight of clinicians, proper removal of bad actors, and monitoring of care.

The tragic deaths of our veterans at the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center in Clarksburg and the sexual assault allegations at the Beckley VA Medical Center are unacceptable. We must work together to ensure the families of our nation's heroes get the answers that they deserve, and that we can work to prevent these tragic events in the future. I fully support the investigation into this matter and appreciate the Committee's interest and oversight.