

HVAC Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Hearing: VHSO Pathologist Statement for the Record of Rep. Rick Crawford (AR-1)

Chairman Pappas and Ranking Member Bergman, thank you for holding this hearing regarding the Veterans Affairs health system.

I would like to thank the committee for its attention to the disturbing matter that occurred in the Fayetteville VA Hospital from 2015 to 2018.

Due to the failure of leadership within the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozark (VHSO), Dr. Robert Morris Levy's irresponsible actions have resulted in over 3,000 misdiagnoses and 15 deaths.

Our great Veterans deserve the best care and should have never been exposed to the personal tragedies that resulted from Mr. Levy's malpractice.

We should all use this terrible situation as an opportunity to review and amend rules and regulations within the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that our Veterans receive quality healthcare and accurate diagnoses.

While I am not a member of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, I am committed to providing support for any proposals that will help the Department of Veterans Affairs avoid similar tragic situations in the future.

One important change to consider would be to prohibit individuals from taking supervisory roles immediately after being rehabilitated from substance abuse.

I believe that many common-sense changes can be made to ensure that this never happens again.

I would especially like to thank the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General for its extensive investigation that resulted in federal charges.

Again, thank you Chairman Pappas and Ranking Member Bergman for your time and attention to this matter.