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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0918**

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Robert Wilkie  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Wilkie:

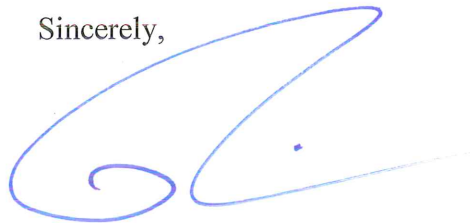
As you know, it was announced today by the Department of Justice that several staff members at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities in West Palm Beach, Fla. and Miami, Fla. have been arrested for fraud and corruption. I am grateful to both the VA Inspector General and the Department of Justice for taking action.

As I'm sure you agree, it is beyond reprehensible that staff at the VA would line their own pockets with dollars intended to help veterans. While I know that there are many amazing and talented people at the VA who cherish the opportunity to serve our veteran community selflessly, unfortunately, this is also yet another example of the VA limping from scandal to scandal.

This also exemplifies why the VA should be begging for increased oversight. Instead, however, the VA will be evicting Members of Congress from your facilities, and I can only help but wonder why you would not be asking for the help of all 535 Members of Congress in working daily and weekly on the ground to assist our veterans.

I am, therefore, writing to urge you to reconsider your decision to evict us, and I look forward to hearing from you before our office agreement ends later this month so that we can find a way forward that empowers Members of Congress to provide the kind of oversight at the VA that our founders envisioned when they created our system of checks and balances. Working together, I am confident that we can make the VA a more effective, transparent and accountable organization.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast  
Member of Congress