

MATT CARTWRIGHT
17TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC LANDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3817

1419 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5546

226 WYOMING AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18503
(570) 341-1050

20 NORTH PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, SUITE 201
WILKES-BARRE, PA 18711
(570) 371-0317

121 PROGRESS AVENUE, SUITE 310
POTTSVILLE, PA 17901
(570) 624-0140

ONE SOUTH THIRD STREET, 9TH FLOOR
EASTON, PA 18042
(484) 546-0776

May 23, 2014

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Shinseki,

I am writing because of the disturbing allegations arising from a number of Veterans Affairs facilities around the country. While I am pleased that the VA and its independent Inspector General have undertaken an investigation at 29 facilities in 15 states, the administration and Congress must work together to ensure that all veterans are receiving the high-quality care they deserve.

With that principle in mind, I am requesting information on wait times experienced at VA health care systems that serve Pennsylvania's Seventeenth Congressional District.

Specifically, I would like information on the following aspects of VA health care:

1. What are the wait times for patients to be seen at each facility serving Pennsylvania's 17th Congressional District, including Medical Centers, Vet Centers and Community Based Outpatient Clinics both in and outside of Pennsylvania? Please provide wait times for each individual clinic (e.g. oncology, audiology, etc.) within these facilities.
2. How are the wait times calculated?
3. What are the causes for the wait times in each clinic?
4. If any of the wait times are out of compliance, what is being or can be done to address the problems and reduce the wait times?

Thank you in advance for your assistance on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress