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September 24, 2014

The Honorable Robert McDonald
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
United States Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary McDonald:

I am outraged by recent reports that Minnesota veterans experienced delays to accessing care at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center and that these delays may have contributed to the death of Marine Corporal Jordan Buisman on November 26, 2012. I am deeply troubled by the allegations that Corporal Buisman was placed on a 70-day waitlist for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) care and died waiting for his neurology appointment at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. Most concerning is the appearance the VA attempted to cover up its wrongdoing by rescheduling Corporal Buisman's appointment following his death. This is unacceptable.

The VA must immediately investigate all allegations regarding delays in access to care for all Minnesota veterans seeking treatment at facilities across our state. The recent media reports highlighting severe mismanagement and lack of accountability across the VA require swift action to uphold the quality of care promised to our veterans. If misconduct is found, you must move quickly to hold all complicit parties accountable.

I ask that you keep me apprised of the VA's efforts to investigate this matter fully, and efforts to identify and correct systemic issues in the system in order to restore faith to Minnesotans that our veterans will receive the care they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. I look forward to working with you to address this issue. Should you have any questions, your staff can contact Ryan Silverberg in my office at (202) 225-2271 or ryan.silverberg@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,


JOHN KLINE
Member of Congress