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November 16, 2012

The Honorable George J. Opfer
 Inspector General
 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 810 Vermont Avenues, NW
 Washington, DC 20420

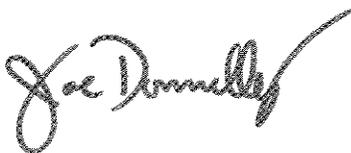
Dear Inspector General Opfer:

It was brought to our attention that inpatient services have been suspended at the Intensive Care Unit and the Acute Medical Unit located at the Fort Wayne VA Medical Center. This facility is critical to the care of veterans in northern Indiana, and we are concerned about the level of care that is currently being provided at the facility. We are writing to request that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) undertake an investigation regarding the decision made by Veteran Integrated Service Network 11 leadership to cease care.

We were informed that the decision to temporarily suspend services was not entirely based on previous OIG reports. According to VA officials, this was a preemptive and temporary closure to retrain staff. VA local leadership determined that policies were outdated, core competencies were not documented, and there was poor quality management in the ICU and Acute Medical Unit. After speaking with the VA, we are concerned that fundamental quality control structure problems exist, not just in the ICU and Acute Medical Unit, but may be present throughout the Fort Wayne VA Medical Center. We are also concerned that the VA has yet to identify the specific measures that need to be taken in order to return the facility to normal operations.

The scope of your investigation should include a review of the overall quality of care and management at the facility, what issues led to the suspension of inpatient care, and what measures need to be taken to return the facility to normal operations. Finally, we urge you to begin this investigation as soon as possible and ask that you contact us with any questions you may have concerning this request. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



JOE DONNELLY
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations



MARLIN A. STUTZMAN
 Chairman
 Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

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