

ROBERT E. LATTA
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3505

May 30, 2014

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The Honorable Jeff Miller
Chairman
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Michaud
Ranking Member
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
333 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member Michaud:

This week I held three veterans' listening sessions in my Congressional District to hear directly from veterans about the issues they are experiencing in receiving timely and quality service and care from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). I wanted to share the issues and themes that were consistently expressed to me during the listening sessions. They include:

- VA doctors, nurses and other health care staff provide veterans quality care; however, administrative issues often prevent veterans from getting that quality care;
- Long wait times for veterans to get health care appointments scheduled and receive compensation benefits;
- The need for more careful organization and management accountability of veterans files to prevent them being lost;
- The need for greater communication and coordination between the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA); and

- The need for a VA and Department of Defense (DOD) integrated electronic health record system or a fully interoperable electronic health record system.

I appreciate your continued hard work and dedication to helping our nation's veterans. I ask that you please keep the issues I have mentioned in mind as the committee conducts hearings and works toward VA reforms over the coming months.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert E. Latta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent.

Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress