

ROY BLUNT  
MISSOURI

VICE CHAIR, SENATE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

260 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2508  
202-224-5721

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS

ARMED SERVICES

COMMERCE, SCIENCE  
AND TRANSPORTATION

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

June 6, 2014

Marj Hedstrom

Director

John J. Pershing VA Medical Center

1500 North Westwood Blvd

Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

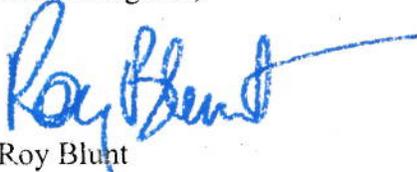
Dear Director Hedstrom,

The care of our nation's veterans is a top priority for all of us. As a result, I am very concerned regarding the information that has come to light regarding the treatment of veterans, excessive wait times, and the possible use of "unauthorized" or "secret" waiting lists within the Veterans Affairs network.

Dr. William Patterson, VISN 15 Director, sent me a letter regarding extended and unacceptable wait times over 90 days taking place within the VISN 15 network where 14 veterans were identified being impacted at the John J. Pershing VA Medical Center in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. To ensure that our veterans are receiving timely and appropriate care, I request responses to the following questions:

- Has John J. Pershing VA Medical Center at any time utilized "unauthorized" or "secret" waiting lists during the delivery of care to veterans seeking treatment?
- What is John J. Pershing VA Medical Center doing to address current gaps, if identified, in access to care at its facilities?
- Is John J. Pershing VA Medical Center participating in any investigations with the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General?

Sincere regards,



Roy Blunt

United States Senator