



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

**Inspector General**  
Washington DC 20420

NOV 29 2016

The Honorable Joni Ernst  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ernst:

This is in response to your November 10, 2016 letter requesting that the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) provide an update on the review of health care provided to Mr. Brandon Ketchum by the Iowa City VA Medical Center in Iowa City, Iowa prior to his suicide in July 2016.

As indicated in our letter of August 11, 2016, the circumstances leading to his suicide were under review and that upon completion of the review, we will make every effort to share whatever information we can in accordance with applicable law. On October 24, 2016, your staff requested an update on the review, and OIG staff responded the same day indicating that the review was proceeding and that OIG staff would be in contact to advise when the review was close to publication.

OIG staff are continuing their work on the report. We recognize the importance of this work, and I expect it will be published in the Spring of 2017. The relevant OIG staff are simultaneously working on several significant projects, and we are constantly balancing workloads to ensure reports are published as timely as possible while maintaining their thoroughness and accuracy.

Thank you for your interest in the OIG.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL J. MISSAL