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United States Senate

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The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Eric S. Drelband
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Barr and Assistant Attorney General Eric S. Drelband:

I write regarding the Department of Justice investigation into disturbing reports of potential systematic violations of the federal rights of individuals with disabilities at the Glenwood Resource Center (GRC) and Woodward Resource Center (WRC) in Iowa.

I request that you use the full extent of your authority under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act and Title H of the Americans with Disabilities Act to conduct a thorough investigation of these reports and determine any possible violations of the law.

I appreciate the Department's attention to this situation; however, I am also concerned by the delay in initiating this course of action. As you are aware, it has been reported that 14 severely disabled residents of the Glenwood Resource Center died between June 2018 and April 2019, and three additional deaths have been reported within just the past two months. I respectfully request your response to the following questions:

- When did the Department of Justice first become aware of this alarming increase in reported deaths at the Glenwood Resource Center?
- What prevented the Department from initiating this investigation more quickly?

It is the duty of the federal government and elected officials to protect the health and safety of our most vulnerable citizens. These troubling reports will be of utmost concern to communities across Iowa and particularly to the residents of these centers, their families, and their loved ones.

I will be closely monitoring this situation and the Department's ongoing investigation. To the extent possible, I also request that you provide consistent updates to my office on the status of this investigation. All those who may have been impacted by this situation will be looking to the Department to provide clear and concise information in order to ensure an immediate and proper response.

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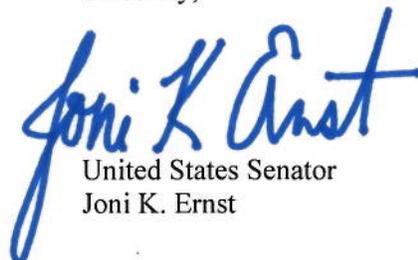
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If you have additional questions or to provide updates to my office, please be in contact with Anna Breen (anna_breen@ernst.senate.gov), Legislative Assistant, and Corey Becker (corey_becker@ernst.senate.gov), Chief Counsel.

Sincerely,



United States Senator
Joni K. Ernst