

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 2, 2018

Judith Johnson-Mekota  
Director  
Iowa City VA Health Care System  
601 US-6  
Iowa City, IA 52246

Dear Director Johnson-Mekota,

According to a recent report in *USA Today*, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) is currently conducting an audit of radiology appointment cancellations at nine VA locations across the nation, including at the Iowa City VA Health Care System. According to the report, thousands of radiology orders were cancelled including those that may have been medically necessary. The VA OIG's audit is set "to determine whether [the] VA processed radiology requests in a timely manner and appropriately managed canceled requests."

Whenever a veteran receives a doctor's order for a follow-up appointment, lab or imaging test; folks rightly expect that the VA will properly coordinate and manage these crucial medical appointments. While we are glad to see corrective action by the Iowa City VA, this and similar issues over the past few years continue to raise questions regarding the level of care our veterans in Iowa are receiving.

As the VA OIG continues its audit, we encourage you to work closely with the OIG to ensure the Iowa City VA is complying with current guidelines. In the interest of transparency and accountability for our veterans, please provide answers to the following questions:

- 1) The Iowa City VA claims that cancellation of radiology appointments happened in a "small number of instances."
  - a. How many total cancellations occurred?
  - b. How many of these cancellations were determined to have been made in error?
- 2) How did the Iowa City VA determine that a radiology appointment was improperly cancelled?
- 3) In addition, please detail the process the Iowa City VA is using to follow up with a veteran to ensure they are receiving proper imaging care.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please respond by October 16, 2018.

Sincerely,

  
Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator

  
Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator

Cc: The Honorable Robert Wilkie