

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309

September 23, 2014

The Honorable Eric J. Holder, Jr.  
United States Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Holder,

Last night, television station KARE 11 in Minnesota carried a news report about a terrible tragedy at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) there. The report indicated that a veteran, 24-year-old Jordan Buisman, died while waiting for care at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis. In addition, the report indicated that VA records purport to show that this young veteran canceled his appointment and had it rescheduled several days *after* he had passed away, raising serious questions about possible manipulation of those records at VA. Several months ago, I wrote to you to urge the Department of Justice (DOJ) to investigate any possible criminal wrongdoing at VA related to scheduling delays and cover-ups of those delays. I am writing now to make sure that you include the tragedy reported in this recent broadcast in your investigations.

It is unacceptable for veterans to have their care delayed, and to have those delays covered up, and it is essential that we get to the bottom of what happened at VA facilities. I have asked the VA Office of Inspector General to include the case of the veteran identified in the KARE 11 report in its own investigations of the problems that have been identified at VA facilities. But as I said in my June letter to you, a thorough investigation by the nation's leading law enforcement agency is also necessary to address any past or ongoing problems at VA. Our nation's veterans have had their confidence shaken in the institution that is supposed to serve them. Congress acted earlier this year to pass legislation that will help fix the problems that have been identified at VA. But we must also make sure that we have fully investigated all possible scheduling delays and manipulated records, and that there is accountability for what happened. Only by getting to the bottom of what happened will our nation's veterans' trust in VA be restored.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. You may contact me, or Jeff Lomonaco on my staff, at (202) 224-5641.

Sincerely,



Al Franken  
United States Senator