

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 20, 2004

The Honorable Richard Griffin  
Inspector General  
Office of the Inspector General  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Inspector General:

I am writing to request that an audit or investigation be conducted regarding some significant EEOC and workers' compensation claims that have been sustained against the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration (VA).

One of the issues that has been brought to my attention is that some workers' compensation cases have been mishandled by the local VA administration. For example, I understand claims have not been forwarded in a timely manner from the VA to the Department of Labor. I had previously brought this issue to the attention of the local VA in 2001, but do not believe the problem has been corrected.

I am also concerned that workers' compensation cases have been upheld based on administrative error and abuse by the VA. I understand that employees of the VA have been granted compensation based on patterns of harassment and discrimination by the administration.

I am also aware that EEO claims have been sustained against the VA based on harassment, discrimination and reprisal. They appear to be significant in nature and have raised some questions in my mind.

I believe these types of complaints against the local VA merit examination. I would like to better understand if there is a pattern of abuse and harassment against VA employees. I would appreciate your office investigating the following concerns:

1. Whether the local VA is following regulations and timing requirements regarding the forwarding and handling of EEO and workers' compensation cases;
2. Whether multiple EEO and workers' compensation cases have been upheld against the VA;
3. Whether training and corrective measures have been implemented based on sustained EEO and worker's compensation cases at the VA; and
4. What further action or investigation should be pursued if your office determines that there is a systematic pattern of harassment, discrimination and administration error or abuse at the local VA.

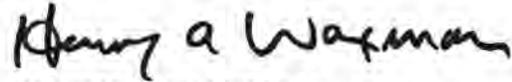
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I appreciate your looking into my concerns and look forward to hearing if your office can offer assistance to investigate my concerns. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry A. Waxman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H" and "W".

HENRY A. WAXMAN  
Member of Congress

HAW:lp