

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0530

HENRY A. WAXMAN
30TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

March 17, 2010

The Honorable Eric Shinseki
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420-0002

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

I am writing to request information about the golf course at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center, which is located in the congressional district I represent.

In recent months, there have been several news reports that the golf course at the West LA VA had been closed. Initial reports indicated that the course was closed due to scheduling issues, but it was later revealed that the course had been closed due to the embezzlement of greens fees by two VA employees. According to the news accounts, the employees may have taken as much as \$200,000 over a period of six years. In addition, one of the two employees has paid restitution in the amount of \$45,000. I understand their sentencing will take place in August, 2010.

I would appreciate receiving the following information and details about this matter:

Were the VA employees responsible for the embezzlement Compensated Work Therapy patients or on the VA payroll?

Has the VA investigated how the golf course was supervised, including how the collection of greens fees was overseen?

Did the West LA VA or VA Central Office conduct its own investigations of the circumstances of the crimes? If so, please provide my office with any reports that were generated as a result of the investigations.

What are the VA's current plans for reopening and running the golf course?

What corrective action has been taken to ensure similar lapses do not occur?

As a result of the improprieties at the West LA VA golf course, has the VA investigated the

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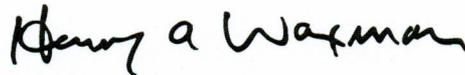
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operations at other programs at the West LA VA, including the Vets Gardens, Japanese Garden, parking facilities and filming programs?

Thank you for your attention to this information request. My district director, Lisa Pinto, can answer any questions your office may have. Ms. Pinto can be reached at 323-651-1040 or lisa.pinto@mail.house.gov with any questions.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry A. Waxman". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress

HAW:lp