



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
INSPECTOR GENERAL
WASHINGTON DC 20420

APR 29 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Akaka
Chairman
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

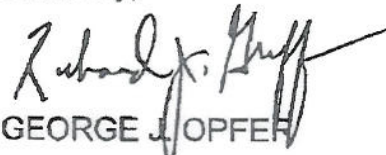
Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in final response to an inquiry from your staff regarding allegations that veterans at the Austin, Texas, Outpatient Clinic may have been charged for treatment that was the result of military sexual trauma (MST). Enclosed is the response from the Director of the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System to our inquiry.

Based on this response, we have decided to conduct a national review of VA facilities to determine if other VA medical centers and community-based outpatient clinics are inappropriately charging veterans for treatment related to MST. We anticipate completing this review by October 2009 and will provide you with the results at that time.

Thank you for your interest in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sincerely,


for GEORGE J. OPFER

Enclosure