

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
FINANCE
JUDICIARY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

December 17, 2024

The Honorable Denis McDonough
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough,

I write to inquire about the ongoing investigation into allegations of misconduct at the James H. Quillen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (Mountain Home VAMC) in Johnson City, Tennessee. As you know, your staff briefed me regarding disturbing reports of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and inappropriate workplace conduct involving multiple employees at the Mountain Home VAMC.

It is beyond reprehensible that no individual has been held meaningfully accountable for their actions. Equally troubling are the leadership and oversight failures that may have allowed such misconduct to occur. The absence of clear answers, coupled with media reports, has caused unnecessary distress among the Mountain Home veteran community. The VA must act urgently to address these concerns. Transparency and accountability are not optional—they are essential to restoring trust and ensuring my constituents feel that they can expect this facility to provide them with the highest standard of care.

Accordingly, I request responses to the following questions by January 16, 2025:

- 1) What is the status of the ongoing investigation and what is the expected completion date?
- 2) How many allegations involving sexual misconduct have been made against employees at the Mountain Home VAMC within the last three years?
- 3) What corrective actions have been taken at the Mountain Home VAMC to discipline employees who may have been involved in the alleged misconduct? Please describe the actions taken against any employee in a leadership role who failed to properly address these allegations.
- 4) Have any employees been terminated as a result of the investigation?
- 5) How many employees have been reassigned as a result of the investigation?
- 6) What additional steps are being considered to prevent future misconduct?

Sincerely,



United States Senator
Marsha Blackburn