

113TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 633

Expressing the sense of the House with respect to accountability for mismanagement at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 20, 2014

Mr. BARROW of Georgia (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House with respect to accountability for mismanagement at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Whereas revelations in 2013 unveiled a pattern of inefficiency and misconduct at Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Clinics (VAMC) across the country;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Inspector General conducted interviews with VA employees and inspected VA facilities across the country;

Whereas on June 9, 2014, the VA released an initial audit of VA medical centers across the country, conducted by the VA Inspector General, detailing a pattern of mismanagement;

Whereas the Inspector General’s audit found that VAMC scheduling staff were pressured by VA management “to utilize inappropriate practices in order to make waiting times appear more favorable”;

Whereas the VA will undergo a review to determine why “some front-line, middle, and senior managers felt compelled to manipulate the VA’s scheduling process”;

Whereas in at least two instances, survey participants believed someone, other than a scheduler, was “routinely accessing records and changing desired dates in order to improve performance measures”;

Whereas respondents felt “threatened or coerced” to alter patient appointment dates and reported having been “sanctioned or punished over scheduling practices for not complying with supervisors’ orders to inappropriately enter or alter recorded desired dates”; and

Whereas section 600.1 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, directs the Attorney General to appoint a Special Counsel when he or she determines that—

(1) “criminal investigation of a person or matter is warranted”;

(2) “investigation or prosecution of that person or matter by a United States Attorney’s Office or litigating Division of the Department of Justice would present a conflict of interest for the Department or other extraordinary circumstances”; and

(3) “under the circumstances, it would be in the public interest to appoint an outside Special Counsel to assume responsibility for the matter”: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House that—

1           (1) actions by VA officials represent a clear vio-  
2           lation of the public's trust for the Department to  
3           provide access to quality health care for our Nation's  
4           veterans and warrant criminal investigation;

5           (2) the ability of the Administration to objec-  
6           tively investigate its own wrongdoing warrants a  
7           Special Counsel to determine whether mismanage-  
8           ment and misconduct at the VA was criminal; and

9           (3) the appointment of a Special Counsel would  
10          be in the public interest.

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