Sent: Thu, 20 May 2021 19:56:14 +0000

To: (b)(6)

Cc: McVicker, Carrie A. (b)(6)

Subject: OSVA Approval Package for VIEWS 4890714

Attachments: Tab 1 4890714 Grassley Transmittal Letter.docx, Tab 2 4890714 Enclosure.docx, Tab 3 4890714 Information about Attachments.docx, Tab 4 04890714 - Incoming Letter.pdf, 4890714 VA

Form 0907.pdf

Importance: High



Attached for your review is the OSVA approval package for VIEWS 4890714/Grassley which includes the following:

- Tab 1 Transmittal Response
- Tab 2 Enclosure
- Tab 3 Information about Enclosure (this document will appended to the attachments. The language in this document was originally in the transmittal letter but COSVA thought this information should not be in the letter that SECVA signs. Per Gina's guidance, I made it a separate document)
 - The attachments are not included in this email because of the size of the files. All the attachments total about 600 pages. All of the documents have been printed out and were provided to you today in a folder.
- Tab 4 -Incoming Letter
- VA Form 0907

THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WASHINGTON

The Honorable Charles Grassley Ranking Member Committee on the Judiciary United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

This is a follow-up to the April 6, 2021, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) interim response to your April 2, 2021, letter about conflicts and ethical issues among senior officials at the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). I appreciate this opportunity to respond.

As stated in the interim response, VA takes this matter very seriously. The free flow of information, especially information that identifies malfeasance, underperformance or abuse is critical to strong agency performance and since arriving at VA, I have taken several opportunities to communicate that to all employees and underscore it to our accountability partners at VA. One such partner is the VA Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection (OAWP), which is charged to, among other responsibilities, investigate allegations of VA senior leader misconduct and poor performance.

In this case, not only is this matter the subject of an active investigation by OAWP, it is also being investigated by the VA Office of Inspector General. As for the specific questions raised in your letter, enclosed are enumerated responses to each question, and attached thereto are copies of the documents you requested that are releasable to you under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Although the President's nominee for head of OAWP will have her hearing later this month, and we eagerly await her confirmation, I want to assure you that if there has been any misconduct by a VA senior official, OAWP and OIG will identify it and, if warranted, the VA senior official will be held appropriately accountable.

In closing, thank you for your patience with the length of time it has taken to respond, and I trust this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Denis McDonough

Enclosure

Department of Veterans of Affairs (VA) Responses to Questions from Senator Charles Grassley

Question 1: Has Acting Undersecretary Tom Murphy ever been recommended for suspension for accepting gifts as prohibited by law?

esponse: ^{(b)(5)}	
Question 1a: If so, was Mr. Murphy eve	er suspended?
VA Response: (b)(5)	
ω)	
Question 1b: Was a recommendation to	for suspension ever overturned? If
so, why and by who?	ioi suspension evel overturneu : n
VA Response: (b)(5)	
0(5)	
tion 2: Had former Deputy Undercocret	ary Pohort Poynolds over been
mmended for suspension for accepting	
stion 2: Had former Deputy Undersecreta mmended for suspension for accepting Response: (15)(5)	gifts as prohibited by law?
Response: (D)(5) Question 2a. If so, was Mr. Reynolds e	gifts as prohibited by law?
mmended for suspension for accepting	gifts as prohibited by law?
Response: (b)(5) Question 2a. If so, was Mr. Reynolds e	gifts as prohibited by law?
Response: (b)(5) Question 2a. If so, was Mr. Reynolds e	gifts as prohibited by law?

	Question 2b. Was a recommendation for suspension ever overturned? If so, why and by who?			
	/A Response: (b)(5)			
Question 3. Had former Principal Undersecretary Jamie Manker ever been ecommended for suspension for accepting gifts as prohibited by law?				
A Re	ponse: (b)(5)			
	Question 3a. If so, was Mr. Manker ever suspended?			
	/A Response: (b)(5)			
(b)(5)				
(b)(5)	A Response: (b)(5) Question 3b. Was a recommendation for suspension ever overturned? If			
Questi related	A Response: (b)(5) Question 3b. Was a recommendation for suspension ever overturned? If so, why and by who?			

Question 5: What steps does the VA take to protect retail in	nvestors by
safeguarding market sensitive information regarding poter	ntial enforcement
announcements related to publicly-traded companies?	

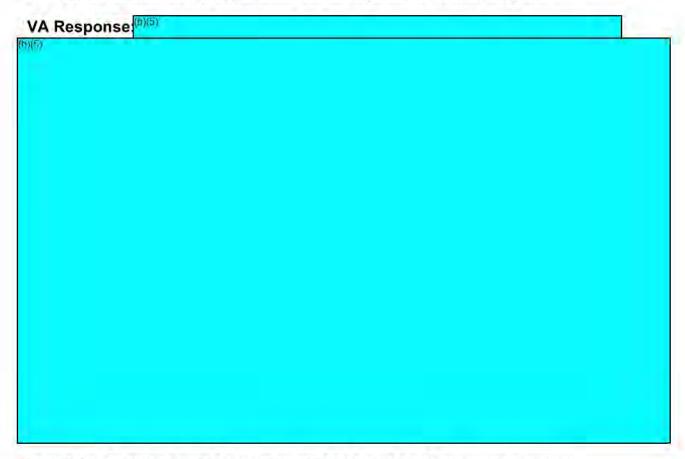
	: Is it possible these ste p prevent this from happ	
VA Respons	se:(b)(5)	
(b)(5)		
	VA is aware that market a investigated this leak of tion.	and the first of the first country of the first of the fi
A Response:		
5)		
vith respect to Mrs ompanies?	e VA Office of General C s. Bogue and her involv	
A Response: (b)(5)		

Question 8: Please provide all records relating to any written ethic VA attorneys regarding Mrs. Bogue's recusal, whether and when the occurred, and all communications regarding Mrs. Bogue's recusal with respect to her husband's companies.					
VA attorneys regarding Mrs. Bogue's recusal, whether and when the occurred, and all communications regarding Mrs. Bogue's recusal					
With Toopool to not have all a companies.	obligations				
VA Response: (b)(5)					
Question 9: Did Mrs. Bogue engage in, participate in, or contribute to VA business with her husband's business? If so, why did VA allow Mrs. Bogue to participate?					
VA Response: (b)(5)					
Question 10: Under current law and regulation, is Mrs. Bogue requ financial information of her spouse via a public financial disclosur did Mrs. Bogue list her husband?					
VA Response: (b)(5)					
γ(5)					
Question 10a: If Mrs. Bogue did report her husband on a pul disclosure form, did she report Mr. Bogue's employer(s)? If					
VA Response: (b)(5)					

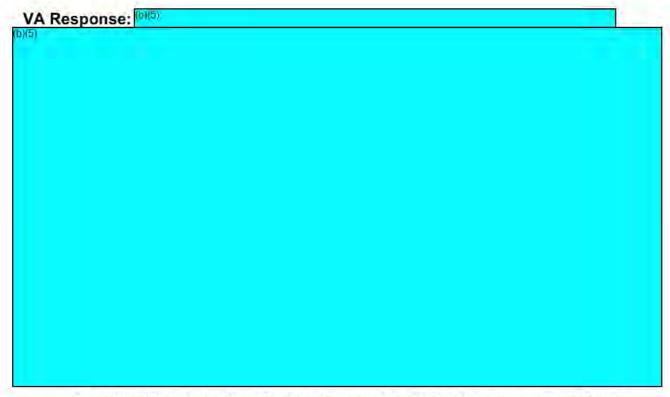
Question 10b: If Mrs. Bogue did report her husband on a public financial disclosure form, did she report Mr. Bogue's salary with respect to his work? If not, why not?

	ase provide Mrs. Bogue's financial reports dating back
five (5) years.	
VA Response: (D)(5)

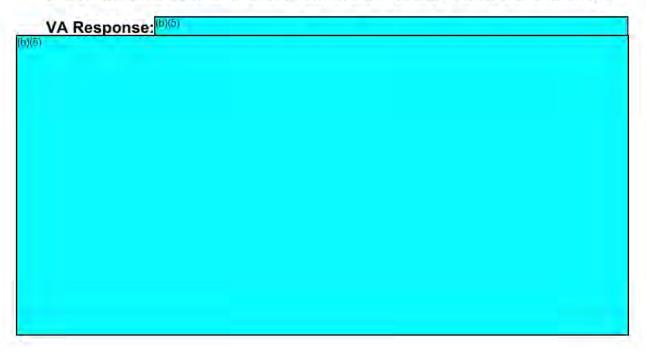
Question 11: If Mrs. Bogue did not report where Mr. Bogue currently works, and if she participated in VA business related to VES, would that constitute a conflict of interest as described by applicable law or regulation? If not, why not?



Question 12: Why has the VA attempted to block FOIA requests seeking information regarding these matters?



Question 12a: Does the VA plan to comply with FOIA requests in a timely and reasonable manner in order to afford the public greater transparency?



Department of Veterans Affairs

May 2021