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## U.S. House of Representatives

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September 29, 2023

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

Dear Secretary McDonough:

I have received troubling allegations of improper relationships and sexual harassment within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Resolution Management, Diversity, and Inclusion (ORMDI). I am incredibly concerned that some of the same ORMDI leaders who are tasked with upholding a zero-tolerance sexual harassment policy, including [REDACTED] may be violating the law themselves. As you know, it is vital VA achieves and sustains a culture where harassment of any kind is not tolerated. If ORMDI leaders are not setting the example, there is little hope VA will rid itself of harassment and create an environment appropriate to provide veterans the quality care and benefits they have earned. To further investigate these allegations, please immediately advise custodians to place a hold on potentially responsive documents, and please provide no later than **Friday, October 27, 2023**, responses to the following questions, including copies of all responsive documents.

1. Please provide all government policies and/or regulations regarding VA supervisor-subordinate interpersonal relationships.
2. Please provide all government policies and/or regulations that prohibit VA personnel using personal communication devices for official business.
3. How many claims of sexual harassment within ORMDI were submitted to relevant bodies since January 1, 2021?
  - a. Out of these claims how many were substantiated?
  - b. Are there any claims currently under review?
4. How many claims of abuse of authority, gross waste of funds, or mismanagement within ORMDI were submitted to relevant bodies since January 1, 2021?
  - a. Out of these claims how many were substantiated?
  - b. Are there any claims currently under review?
5. Please provide copies of all documentation, including all written communications, produced since January 1, 2021, related to any allegations of sexual harassment or

improper interpersonal relationships within ORMDI including accusations against [REDACTED]

6. Please provide copies of all documentation, including all written communications, produced since January 1, 2021, related to any Administrative Investigations Board (AIB), fact finding, and any other administrative investigations related to any accusations of sexual harassment or improper relationships within ORMDI including accusations against [REDACTED]
7. What is VA's standard operating procedure when a subordinate alleges sexual harassment against the subordinate's supervisor?
8. Please provide copies of all documentation, including all written communications, produced since January 1, 2021, related to travel which included [REDACTED] to facility Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) assessments. Please include documentation related to [REDACTED] travel along with documentation related to any VA personnel who accompanied [REDACTED] on this travel.

When producing documents, please do not alter them in any way, including but not limited to application of redactions or a watermark. Additionally, digital copies should be provided in a format that enables their printing and copying by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Please do not hesitate to have your staff contact James Whittaker, Republican Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, at [james.whittaker@mail.house.gov](mailto:james.whittaker@mail.house.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,



**MIKE BOST**  
Chairman

Cc: The Honorable Mark Takano, Ranking Member