



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

January 12, 2024

The Honorable Mike Bost
Chairman
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your December 13, 2023, co-signed letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) expressing your concerns regarding a social media video posted by a VA employee. I appreciate this opportunity to address your concerns.

Let me be clear. I condemn antisemitism in the strongest terms possible. It is inconsistent with our core values of integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect, and excellence. There's no space at VA for hate, not least because it hinders our ability to care for Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors who represent every race, creed, gender and belief, and who swore an oath to defend the Constitution.

Regarding the social media video posted by a VA employee, the employee's statements were inaccurate, abhorrent, and insensitive, particularly so when the employee appears to mock people who are concerned about family members being held hostage. The employee is a non-supervisory career employee at VA. The employee's supervisor counseled the employee and the employee completed required harassment prevention and accountability training.

Thank you for your continued support of the Nation's Veterans. A similar response is being sent to the co-signers of your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DMcDonough".

Denis McDonough