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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2308

May 23, 2014

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House
H232 - Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I urge you to establish a House Select Committee to conduct a swift and immediate probe into allegations of mismanagement, fraud and abuse at the agency charged with caring for our nation's veterans and their families.

I've called on Secretary Shinseki to resign his post immediately. It's the right thing to do in light of the systemic, chronic and shameful mismanagement of the care of our nation's heroes. These issues did not begin with Secretary Shinseki, but he's had six years to fix the problems that plague this agency, and it's highly unlikely that any more time will make a difference. The VA requires a new leadership team with a fresh perspective and a total commitment to our veterans and their families.

However, his resignation is not enough. I call on you to establish a new House Select Committee to conduct a bipartisan, impartial and thorough investigation into the entire range of problems that plague the Veterans Administration - from terribly long travel times and access to care in rural areas, to the outrageous backlog in servicing disability claims from Washington, to delays and fraudulent appointment schedules that may have contributed to the deaths of veterans in Phoenix and elsewhere.

It is also important to note and understand that these issues and many others at the VA stem not only from terrible management - but from lack of funding and resources to deal with the dramatic increase in disability claims stemming from thirteen years of war.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to act now.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress