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**TIMOTHY J. WALZ**  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
FIRST DISTRICT, MINNESOTA  
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AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE  
COMMITTEE

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

May 9, 2014

Janet Murphy, Network Director  
VA Midwest Health Care Network (VISN-23)  
2805 Dodd Road, Suite 250  
Eagan, MN 55121

Dear Director Murphy,

I appreciate the service of the men and women who work every day in our VA medical facilities. They selflessly take care of the veterans who have paid for that medical care with the blood, sweat, and tears they shed defending us at home. As a grateful nation, we must always honor our sacred contract with the courageous Americans who put their lives on the line for us.

I am writing because of the troubling allegations coming from a number of VA facilities around the country, including the Phoenix, Arizona and the Austin and San Antonio, Texas facilities. While the VA and its independent Inspector General are investigating the allegations at the Phoenix VAMC and the nationwide wait times as a whole, it is also the role of Congress to conduct oversight to ensure our veterans are getting the care they have earned and deserve.

While there have been no similar allegations at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System or other VA healthcare facilities in and around Minnesota, I am requesting information on wait times experienced at VA health care systems that serve Minnesota's First Congressional District.

Specifically, I would like information on the following aspects of VA healthcare:

1. What are the wait times for patients to be seen at each facility serving Minnesota's First Congressional District, including Medical Centers, Vet Centers and Community Based Outpatient Clinics both in and outside of Minnesota? Please provide wait times for each individual clinic (e.g. oncology, audiology, etc.) within these facilities.
2. How are the wait times calculated?
3. What are the causes for the wait times in each clinic?

4. If any of the wait times are out of compliance, what is being or can be done to address the problems and reduce the wait times?

Our nation's veterans deserve access to medical care in a timely fashion, especially if they are facing life-threatening conditions when time is of the essence. Please elaborate in your response on any out of compliance wait times experienced by veterans with life-threatening conditions and steps being taken to address the problems.

I appreciate your service to our veterans and our great nation. If further clarification is required, you may contact Shawn Schloesser, (507) 388-2149 at my Mankato Office located at 227 E. Main Street, Mankato MN 56001.

Thank you in advance for your assistance on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Walz". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Tim Walz  
Member of Congress