

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 01, 2019

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Wilkie:

We are writing to raise significant concerns with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Charge Card Program.


On July 22, VA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) released a report, *Annual Risk Assessment of VA's Charge Card Program*, detailing several cases of potential fraud, waste, and abuse within the Department. Several examples identified in the report are particularly concerning to us, including duplicate payments, split purchases, unreasonable workload for Approving Officials (AOs), and inadequate documentation or reporting of financial information.

The report outlines the potential loss of hundreds of millions of tax payer dollars in overpayments. In Fiscal Year 2018 alone, there were 1.8 million government purchase card duplicate payments costing more than \$412 million. We are also troubled that the OIG uncovered more than 700,000 split purchases totaling \$799 million. We are concerned that poor accountability and possible overpayments of funds are tied to the excessive number of cardholders each AO must oversee. These and other missteps make it clear that further oversight is required to ensure that VA is not wasting critical funding that Congress has appropriated to care for our veterans.

Therefore, we ask that you provide the Department's plan of action to address the OIG's recommendations. In particular, we would appreciate information on actions being taken to correct the 1.8 million duplicate payments and the process used to assign AOs accounts to oversee. In addition, we would like to know more about systems, safeguards, internal controls, techniques, and technologies VA uses to identify or prevent illegal, improper, or erroneous purchases and how those mitigating factors can be made more effective.

We appreciate your attention to this important issue and look forward to your prompt response on how VA will address the findings in this recent OIG report.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator




Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator