

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 25, 2025

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman
Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Paul:

We write to request you convene a hearing on the nomination of Cheryl Mason to serve as Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) before her nomination is discharged from the Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC) on July 14. This nomination, PN 141-30, was dually referred to HSGAC and the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs (SVAC) on May 6, 2025; and on June 4, 2025, SVAC held its hearing on this nomination. We believe Ms. Mason should appear before HSGAC so Members of this Committee can ensure she meets the high standards required for this critical position.

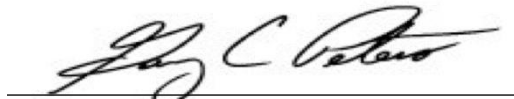
Under your chairmanship, HSGAC has highlighted the importance of strong, independent oversight of government agencies and of eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse within the federal government. As you are aware, Inspectors General are a critical part of that oversight to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse of taxpayer funds. VA's prior Inspector General, Mike Missal, worked on a bipartisan basis with Congress and identified more than \$45 billion in savings, cost avoidance, and questionable costs over his eight-year tenure. The hearings held by HSGAC and SVAC in 2016 to vet Mr. Missal were crucial to ensuring his experience, qualifications, and impartiality prior to confirmation.

As the Senate's primary oversight committee with jurisdiction over Inspectors General, it is vital HSGAC continues the precedent of holding hearings for these unique roles that ensure transparency and accountability in our government. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs



GARY C. PETERS
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs