

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



FAX

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TO: Ms. Danielle Brian

FROM: VA OIG (Roberta)

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PAGES: 2

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PHONE: 202.347.1122

DATE: AUG 1 2015

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**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Office of Inspector General  
Washington DC 20420

AUG 11 2015

Ms. Danielle Brian  
Executive Director  
Project On Government Oversight  
1100 G Street NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Brian:

At the July 30, 2015, hearing on VA whistleblower claims held before the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, United States Senate, Subcommittee Chairman Mark Kirk suggested I review the VA Office of Inspector General's (OIG) subpoena issued to the Project On Government Oversight (POGO) on May 30, 2014. I have decided not to enforce the subpoena. *The Inspector General Act* provides that an OIG subpoena may be enforced in any Federal District Court. The subpoena that the OIG issued set a return date of June 13, 2014, for the requested documents from POGO. Because that return date has lapsed and we did not elect to press the Department of Justice for judicial enforcement, the subpoena is moot.

During the questioning of witnesses at the July 30<sup>th</sup> hearing, you stated that POGO was willing to provide to the OIG any information from the hotline that POGO set up in May 2014 without giving identifying information about the individuals who contacted POGO. I am proposing that my staff work with POGO to obtain relevant de-identified information in the approximately 800 complaints received from VA employees and veterans that will enable the OIG to investigate any previously unidentified Department of Veterans Affairs sites where inappropriate patient medical scheduling practices are occurring or where data manipulation schemes are in practice that have the potential to harm veterans. Please have a POGO staff member contact Mr. Roy Fredrikson, Deputy Counselor to the Inspector General, at (202) 461-4533 to discuss how we can best accomplish the transmission of the information.

I believe that both POGO and the OIG have common goals to protect whistleblowers' identities and hold VA officials accountable. My goal moving forward is to ensure the OIG has rooted out all the schemes and inappropriate practices that have potential to delay vital services to veterans. I appreciate your cooperation in facilitating this matter.

Sincerely,

  
LINDA A. HALLIDAY  
Deputy Inspector General