



VA Regional Office  
AFGE LOCAL 520  
PO BOX 1778  
COLUMBIA, SC 29202  
June 14, 2015

Chairmen, Ranking Members, Members of the US House and Senate Committees of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs

Dear Committee Members and VA Secretary:

AFGE Local 520, the exclusive representative of the bargaining unit of VARO Columbia, SC, wants to address the silence regarding the VBA's workload and backlog.

Although there has been silence on the VBA's workload and reduction of the backlog, AFGE Local 520 has continued to follow both.

An excerpt from the article, *Senators Want Investigation, Overhaul of VA Claims Backlog Processing, Government Executive, May 6, 2015*, addresses the issue that AFGE Local 520 has advocated through an on-line petition posted on January 7, 2014.

“Wait times vary widely across the country, from an average of 60 days in Providence, R.I., to an average of 281 days in Baltimore. To understand the discrepancies in processing claims, the lawmakers have called for the Government Accountability Office to conduct a nationwide investigation and identify ways to improve the system.”

Furthermore, at the US House of Veterans Affairs Committee hearing on July 14, 2015, titled Evaluation of the Process to Achieve VBA Goal, the following testimony was given by me:

“...There is a need for a review of each regional office. It is unfair to a regional director who is doing a good job to be lumped in with a director who is not doing a good job.”  
*HVR195.000, Uncorrected, FC, 7/14/14, lines 2742 through 2744.*

The backlog increased by 2,069 last week and the overall pending rating claims by 426.

WEEK	C&P RB OVERALL	DIFF	WEEK	C&P RB BACKLOG	DIFF
06/01/15	407,638	-9,355	06/01/15	140,703	-5,102
06/08/15	408,064	426	06/08/15	142,772	2,069

The enormous reduction of EP 400s since April 27, 2015 and the increase in the percentage over 125 days should raise some eyebrows as well as questions.

End Product	4/27/2015	6/8/2015	W-DIFF	DIFF	4/27/15	6/8/2015
400	209,841	101,949	-107,892	107,000	57.4	70.5%

Moreover, this ad that is coming soon to the nation tells the true story of the VBA's workload.

**Dear VA, HERE LIES MY CLAIM WHY???**

Born as of May 18, 2015

**Rating: 427,689**

**Nonrating: 464,197**

**Appeals: 301,725**

**EP 930: 27,711**

**EP 400: 136,141**

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**RIP Total: 1,357,463**

**LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND**

**AFGE LOCAL 520 COLUMBIA, SC**

Art Request: VC 10130440\_20 Rev#3

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Furthermore, DEATH claims have also risen since the mandatory overtime initiative and VBA's laser focus on the backlog at all cost.

DATES	1/12/2015	6/8/2015	Diff
EP 140	6,129	6,634	505
EP 190	9,631	12,518	2,887
EP 160	15,588	16,552	964
EP 165	7,537	8,579	1,042
	38,885	44,283	5,398

Veterans deserve better service and employees deserve better leadership!

*"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."* Albert Einstein



Ronald Robison  
President  
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