



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

April 1, 2014

Ms. Elizabeth Dudek
Secretary
Florida Agency for Health Care Administration
2727 Mahan Drive
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Dear Secretary Dudek:

Due to the ongoing lack of transparency at federally operated Veterans Hospitals, I am asking the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to take immediate action to shine a light on those federal veterans hospitals included in the "Sunshine VISN" (Veterans Integrated Service Network 8) in our state.

National media reports have documented the poor treatment of veterans at federal hospitals in the Sunshine VISN, a federal region including Florida and other states. Reports say the treatment of veterans was so neglectful that 14 veterans sustained injuries and five of these veterans tragically lost their lives.

Perhaps even more troubling, many questions in this tragedy remain unanswered: Which of these incidents happened at which veterans hospitals in Florida?; What specific action is the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs undertaking at each of our federal hospitals to ensure the quality of care for veterans is improved?; How can the federal government increase transparency on the quality of care provided to veterans so taxpayers can ensure these federally funded hospitals are providing excellent care for our nation's heroes?

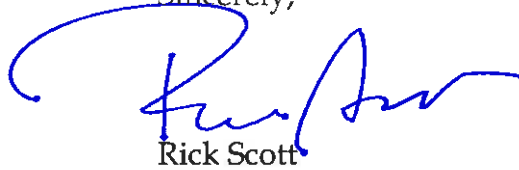
In Florida, we strive to be the most veteran friendly state in the country. Therefore, we must fight to protect those who have so bravely fought to defend and protect our nation. AHCA should take immediate action to shine a light on the processes of federal Veterans Affairs hospitals in Florida.

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AHCA's immediate action should include the inspection of federal VA hospitals in the "Sunshine VISN" in an effort to publicly report these findings and ultimately drive the high-quality care Florida veterans deserve.

Thank you for your quick action on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Rick Scott
Governor