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HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

# Congress of the United States
## House of Representatives
## Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2023

Mr. Donald E. Koenig
Director
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
1010 Delafield Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15240-1005

Dear Director Koenig:

I was shocked and saddened to learn that a veteran committed suicide with a gun at the H. John Heinz III VA Medical Center on October 10, 2023. I grieve for him and his loved ones. This is a tragedy that should never have happened and must never happen again. Those who took a sacred oath to defend this country deserve the highest standards of care and safety. VA Pittsburgh failed to meet that standard last week. Accordingly, I request your response by October 30th to the following questions:

1. How was this veteran able to get a gun onto the campus?
2. What safety measures, if any, are currently in place at this facility to prevent someone from bringing an unauthorized gun onto the campus?
3. Will the VA be conducting a systematic review of safety measures, and will the results be made public?
4. What actions has VA Pittsburgh taken after this failure to prevent someone from bringing an unauthorized gun onto the campus?

The VA has the sacred duty to live up to the promises this country has made to my fellow veterans. When there is a failure, we must understand why—and what is being done to change things. Veterans in Western Pennsylvania deserve to know how VA will prevent tragedies like this from happening again in the future. I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Very Respectfully,

Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Denis McDonough, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs

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