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U.S. House of Representatives**COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

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July 13, 2018

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
 Comptroller General
 U.S. Government Accountability Office
 441 G Street, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

According to long-established U.S. Supreme Court precedent, sexual harassment is a type of employment discrimination based on sex and is therefore actionable under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Sexual harassment can devastate victims and has far-reaching, negative impacts both to the victims themselves and to the environment in which they work. Recently released Merit Systems Protection Board survey data indicate that about a fifth of female federal employees experienced some form of sexual harassment between 2014 and 2016. Specifically, this survey data indicates that Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employees experienced the highest rate of sexual harassment compared to other federal agencies during that time period. If left unchecked, these behaviors will undermine the department's core values and ability to serve our veterans efficiently and effectively.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that GAO review VA's efforts to prevent sexual harassment in its workplace. Particularly, we are interested in learning the following:

1. To what extent has VA developed an effective strategy and related policies to prevent sexual harassment?
2. What data are available on sexual harassment incidents at VA and to what extent does the agency use these data to identify and prevent harassment?
3. Based on that data, what percentage of VA employees state that they have experienced sexual harassment at VA in the previous year? Please identify the percentage for employees as a whole and by sex across VA, and individually among its respective administrations.
4. To what extent does VA monitor adherence to its policies for resolving incidents of sexual harassment?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jon Hodnette, Majority Staff Director, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, at (202) 225-3569, or Grace Rodden, Minority Staff Director, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, at (202) 225-9756.

Sincerely,



JACK BERGMAN

Chairman

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations



ANN MCLANE KUSTER

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations