

**Veterans Affairs Whistleblower Coalition
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U.S. Senator Daniel Kahikina Akaka
Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee
United States Senate
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Washington, D.C. 20510
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April 30, 2007

Prince Kuhio Federal Building
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Dear Senator Akaka,

I am in receipt of your follow-up letter dated April 19, 2007 in which you state the following: *Where there are specific and credible allegations of retaliation against a VA employee who has brought attention to wrongdoing, I also am committed to ensuring that he or she is provided the full protections under the law and is not illegally discharged as a result. If any such cases are brought to my attention, I will see that they get into the hands of the proper authorities as swiftly as possible.*

Unfortunately, the experiences of our VA Whistleblower Coalition members clearly indicate that even the "proper authorities" are routinely acting improperly and that real whistleblower protection is sorely lacking within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Our group is very excited that you have made the statement above to support VA employees against harmful and illegal retaliation by Department of Veterans' Affairs administrators and officials. As you may know, our group will be an integral part of Whistleblower Week in Washington which begins May 14, 2007. We would very much like an opportunity to discuss our very specific concerns with you. If you are unavailable and could designate an office staffer, we would be most appreciative.

The NO FEAR group is sponsoring a Whistleblower tribunal on May 15th for which we have confirmations from several Congressmen and Senators to attend. During this session, participants will hear from several whistleblowers. The VAWBC will have 5 such speakers, each for 5 minutes. Several other whistleblower groups will have similar presentations. Additionally, we are collating 1-page documents with summaries from several of our members from various participating groups that will become part of a Congressional Record.

This meeting is scheduled from 9AM until 12PM in the Cannon Building. You may view a more detailed schedule of the week see <http://whistle-week-in-dc.org/>. A press advisory may be seen at <http://www.vawbc.com/page17.html>. We are especially hopeful that you will attend this very important event that ultimately and adversely affect veterans because of poor whistleblower protection for VA employees.

The VAWBC and the National Security Whistleblower Coalition will co-lead a meeting on May 16, 2007 from 12PM to 1:30PM in the Willard Inter-Continental Hotel. We are hopeful that this event will be attended by at least one of your office representatives as well. We are so concerned for safety implications for our veterans because of whistleblower retaliation, that we will rework the entire session around your concerns and prepare for a less formal breakout forum if that is more desirable.

Please contact me by any of the venues below my signature block to indicate how you intend to best represent veteran constituents during Whistleblower Week in Washington. We can discuss the best forum for Wednesday May 16, 2007 at that time.

Thank you very much for your time and careful attention to this matter!

Sincerely,



Dr. Jeffrey Fudin
Founder/Executive Director, Veterans Affairs Whistleblower Coalition

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