

ANN KIRKPATRICK  
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0301

201 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3361  
405 NORTH BEAVER STREET #6  
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86001  
211 NORTH FLORENCE STREET #1  
CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122  
11555 WEST CIVIC CENTER DRIVE #104A  
MARANA, AZ 85653  
550 NORTH 9TH PLACE  
SHOW LOW, AZ 85901  
1400 EAST ASH  
GLOBE, AZ 85501  
P.O. Box 1952  
HIGHWAY 191  
CHINLE, AZ 86503

June 2, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write today out of deep concern and outrage over news reports that the Department of Justice is refusing to defend portions of the VA reform law amid a legal challenge from the person at the center of the horrendous VA scandal, former Phoenix VA director Sharon Helman.

I've heard from far too many Arizona veterans and their families about the harm caused by Helman's mismanagement and negligence. As you recall, Helman was sentenced to two years of probation in federal court in May 2016 for receiving more than \$50,000 in improper gifts. I am concerned that the Justice Department's decision could open the door for Helman to return to her job at the Phoenix VA – a possibility that is both outrageous and unacceptable.

I ask you to ensure the administration is taking all steps necessary to ensure Helman and other failed leaders in the VA system are not allowed to return to their jobs once removed. When Congress passed the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act in 2014, which you signed into law, one of our top priorities was to increase accountability at the VA. I urge your administration to use the tools it was provided in this legislation, as well as all the other authorities and tools it has at its disposal, to ensure failed managers and employees are removed or properly disciplined and the culture of VA is reformed.

After all we have learned from the VA scandal, it would be malpractice to reinstate negligent officials. I urge you to do everything in your power to ensure the VA does right by our veterans.

Most respectfully,



The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick  
U.S. Representative, Arizona District One