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## **Congress of the United States** House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3214

October 3, 2005

The Honorable Jim Nicholson Secretary United States Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing to you about the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) and the process through which PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) was selected to conduct the business plan studies.

As you know, PWC currently is studying the Manhattan and Brooklyn facilities to determine if they will continue to offer the services that each is providing, transfer those services, consolidate the services provided at these facilities, or close one of these facilities. Because the determination made by PWC regarding these centers could have a dramatic impact on the lives of the thousands of veterans depending on the Manhattan and Brooklyn VA hospitals, I would like to know the details of PWC's selection to undertake this task.

Therefore, I respectfully request that you provide to me a copy of the PWC contract with the Department of Veterans Affairs related to CARES, a timeline of the solicitation process for awarding this contract, and any documents related to that process. I would like to know who were the other bidders for this contract and what were the requirements set forth by the VA for the recipient of the contract. Is there one contract for PWC to conduct all the studies or are there individual contracts for each study? Additionally, please inform me if this information can only be provided through a request made under the Freedom of Information Act.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. Please contact Minna Elias with my staff at 212-860-0606 if you have any questions.

Sincerely.

CAROLYN B. MALONEY Member of Congress

Please reply to: 1651 Third Avenue, Suite 311, New York, NY 10128

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