

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 25, 2016

The Honorable Robert A. McDonald
Secretary
United States Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington, DC 20420

The Honorable James B. Comey
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC, 20535-0001

Dear Secretary McDonald and Director Comey,

We are writing to express our deep concern over the recent suicide that occurred in the parking lot of the Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Northport, New York. It has been reported that Mr. Peter A. Kaisen, a veteran from Islip, New York, shot and killed himself outside of the nursing facility after seeking treatment at the Northport VAMC on Sunday, August 21st.

It is critical that our nation's veterans feel they can trust the services provided by their VA medical facilities, and that their health and wellbeing is of the utmost priority. This trust must extend not only to medical treatment provided in operating rooms and primary care facilities, but also to the mental health services provided by all VA facilities. Mental health treatment is critical to the overall health of our veterans, and every effort must be made to provide for their needs.

We demand that the FBI conduct a thorough, expeditious and transparent investigation into this incident, and we demand that the VA is transparent and fully cooperative in every aspect of the FBI's investigation. Only a thorough and transparent report on the cause of this incident will ensure that the VA maintains the confidence of our veterans who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

Sincerely,



Steve Israel
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Peter T. King
MEMBER OF CONGRESS