



441 G St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

September 22, 2020

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

Dear Senator Schatz:

Thank you for your letter, jointly signed by Senator Elizabeth Warren, requesting that the Government Accountability Office review matters related to the culture, policies, and practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs to determine the extent to which systemic racism impacts the VA, including whether VA employees and veterans in the benefits offices, medical centers, and other facilities under its jurisdiction experience racial discrimination in the workplace.

GAO accepts your request as work that is within the scope of its authority. At the current time we anticipate that staff with the required skills will be available to initiate an engagement in about six months. Your request has been assigned to Ms. Cindy Brown Barnes, Managing Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security. Closer to the time GAO can start the engagement, Ms. Brown Barnes or a member of her team will contact Will Rogers and Michelle Dominguez to confirm that this request continues to be your priority for us. As applicable, we will also be in contact with the cognizant Inspector General's office to ensure that we are not duplicating efforts. If an issue arises during this coordination, we will consult with you regarding its resolution.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Brown Barnes at 202-512-7215 or brownbarnesc@gao.gov, or Mr. Carlos Diz, Assistant Director, Congressional Relations, on my staff at 202-512-8256 or dizc@gao.gov.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Orice Williams Brown".

Orice Williams Brown
Managing Director
Congressional Relations

cc: Will Rogers
Michelle Dominguez

Ref: CCAR 20-1051



441 G St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

September 22, 2020

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter, jointly signed by Ranking Member Brian Schatz, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, Senate Committee on Appropriations, requesting that the Government Accountability Office review matters related to the culture, policies, and practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs to determine the extent to which systemic racism impacts the VA, including whether VA employees and veterans in the benefits offices, medical centers, and other facilities under its jurisdiction experience racial discrimination in the workplace.

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Orice Williams Brown
Managing Director
Congressional Relations

cc: Feras Sleiman

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