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November 8, 2017

The Honorable David J. Shulkin  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20420-0002

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The Veterans Administration (VA) recently published its 2017 Hospital Star Rating, an annual report that assesses the performance of VA medical centers across the country. I am concerned about the performance of Mississippi's two major medical centers. The G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery VA Medical Center in Jackson received two stars out of five. The Gulf Coast VA Medical Center in Biloxi received only one star. These ratings are unchanged from last year. These results are especially disappointing since 64 percent of VA facilities showed improvement over last year.

I appreciate the dedicated VA staff in Jackson and Biloxi. In particular, the Jackson VA has made recent strides under the leadership of its Director, Dr. David Walker. Mississippi veterans, however, deserve better than two-star and one-star medical centers. VA has a responsibility to help each medical center identify and implement performance improvement measures. Please provide me with VA's plan to help improve performance at Jackson and Biloxi. I recognize that Congress plays a critical role in supporting the VA, so please also identify any areas where I can assist.

Mississippi is home to nearly 200,000 veterans. I invite you to join me in meeting some of these veterans during site visits to the Jackson and Biloxi medical centers. Your visit to these facilities would demonstrate VA's continuing commitment to Mississippi's veterans.

Sincerely,

Roger F. Wicker

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger F. Wicker", written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.