



Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of the Chief of Staff

July 22, 2008

The Honorable Sam Reed
Secretary of State of Washington
Legislative Building, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 40220
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in response to your letter dated July 16, 2008, asking the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to change Veterans Health Administration (VHA) directive 2008-025, "Voting Assistance For VA Patients." The Secretary asked me to respond on his behalf.

On July 17, 2008, letters were sent to you and election officials from the other states and territories providing clarification of the directive and contact information for the VA Voluntary Service Officer in your local areas. To ensure that VA offers these veterans voter registration and voting assistance in a nonpartisan manner and with minimal disruptions to facility operations, we believe it is essential that these efforts be coordinated through the VA Voluntary Service Office at each VA medical center.

Your concern for veterans is appreciated. A similar response has been sent to the cosigners of your letter.

Sincerely yours,


Thomas G. Bowman

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Office of Secretary of State