

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4305

June 17, 2008

The Honorable James B. Peake
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Peake:

I request your prompt attention to a troubling report released this morning by ABC News and the *Washington Times*. According to press accounts, Department of Veterans Affairs medical personnel have been subjecting some of our returning warriors to potentially dangerous clinical trials involving the anti-smoking drug Chantix. Specifically, this report alleges that VA doctors learned of possible serious side effects of this drug, including suicide and erratic behavior, but waited more than three months before warning veterans who had been a part of these studies.

Our nation's veterans deserve the best medical treatment available; they have earned nothing less. As such, the VA has an obligation to keep veterans under its charge fully informed about their own health care.

I urge you to give this matter your immediate attention and initiate an investigation into the claims made by the media. In addition, I request that my office be briefed on your findings as soon as your inquiry is complete. Should you determine that these allegations are substantiated, I ask you to take any action necessary to rectify the situation.

Thank you for your service on behalf of America's veterans.

Sincerely,


JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator