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## U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

July 29, 2016

The Honorable Robert A. McDonald  
 Secretary  
 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
 810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
 Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonald,

On October 9, 2015, I requested the following information. To date, VA has neither provided it nor given an update as to when to expect it.

*How much has VA spent on artwork and ornamental furnishings since fiscal year 2010? Include purchases for the current fiscal year that are included in the spend plan and/or are planned but whose acquisitions have not been completed. Also include purchases that are not explicit, stand-alone contracts but are elements of larger construction or design contracts. Please organize the information by fiscal year and by VISN and facility. Please distinguish between art and furnishings in patient spaces as opposed to administrative spaces.*

*What artwork has VA commissioned or purchased from Veteran artists? Likewise, what artwork has VA commissioned or purchased through the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression, as recommended in VA's mental health facility design manual?*

Recently, a variety of media outlets have reported that VA spent \$20 million on artwork over the past decade. It is unclear whether this figure is complete. The Committee previously identified at least \$6,349,877.77 spent by the Palo Alto Health Care System on art and consulting services. Either the reported \$20 million, 10-year total is incomplete, or the Palo Alto Health Care System expenditures represent an extraordinarily large portion of VA's nationwide spending.

Additionally, numerous members of the Committee, myself included, have requested unredacted copies of all evidence and documentation related to the Aurora, Colorado Replacement Medical Center construction project AIB. Despite VA claiming in a May 13, 2016, letter that it has provided "thousands of pages" of such documentation, that simply is not the case.

Please provide the requested information and documentation by no later than close of business on **Friday, August 26, 2016**. If VA fails to do so, the Committee will not hesitate to pursue a

subpoena in order to effectuate their immediate release. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to have your staff contact Mr. Jon Towers, Majority Staff Director, at (202) 225-3527.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Miller". The signature is stylized and fluid, with the first name "Jeff" written in a large, cursive script and the last name "Miller" in a smaller, more compact cursive script.

**JEFF MILLER**  
Chairman

Cc: Mark Takano, Acting Ranking Member

JM/wm