



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Washington DC 20420

In Reply Refer To:

July 28, 2016

Brandon Coleman
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Coleman:

As Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operation and Management for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), it is very important to me to acknowledge your dedication and commitment to the mission and values of VA and Veterans Health Administration. In your position as an Addiction Therapist at the Phoenix VA, you brought to the VA's attention significant concerns regarding the treatment of suicidal veterans. VA values and depends on employees who, like you, are willing to extend themselves to make the VA stronger. We are grateful that you brought awareness to these important issues.

No organization can succeed without values to match its mission. VA's mission is to care for those "who shall have borne the battle" and for their families and survivors. VA's core values – Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence – define our culture and strengthen our dedication to those we serve, and they are exemplified in your service to the VA. You chose the harder right instead of the easier wrong and performed your duties to the very best of your abilities.

You have shown your dedication and commitment to the mission of VA. I want to thank you for taking the time to support VA, its mission, and core values.

Sincerely

Steve Young

Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Health
for Operations and Management