



U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505

The Special Counsel

May 9, 2006

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Re: OSC File No. DI-05-1801

Dear Mr. President:

I received disclosures from a whistleblower at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), VA Medical Center (VAMC), Miami, Florida. The whistleblower, Gary DiLorenzo, Respiratory Technician, alleged that medical personnel at the VAMC are endangering the health of respiratory patients by administering the medications albuterol sulfate and ipratropium bromide in diluted doses and at incorrect intervals of time in order to cut costs. As discussed in the attached Analysis of Disclosures, an agency investigation did not substantiate Mr. DiLorenzo's allegations. However, the investigation did uncover other problems in the VAMC's Respiratory Care Unit, including a shortage of staff and poor documentation of medical treatments.

I required the Honorable James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to conduct an investigation into the whistleblower's disclosures pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(c) and (d). The Secretary submitted a report to this office on November 19, 2005. OSC reviewed the report and found it to be deficient based on the fact that the agency had not interviewed Mr. DiLorenzo as part of its investigation. In response, the agency agreed to interview Mr. DiLorenzo, and it submitted a revised report on February 14, 2006. Mr. DiLorenzo provided comments on the agency report to this office pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(1). As required by law, 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), I am now transmitting the report to you.

We have reviewed the agency report and have determined that it contains all of the information required by statute and the agency's findings appear to be reasonable. As required by § 1213(e)(3), I have sent a copy of the report and the whistleblower's comments to the Chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs. We have also filed a copy of the report in our public file and closed the matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott J. Bloch".

Scott J. Bloch

Enclosures