



U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

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

The Special Counsel

October 26, 2006

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: OSC File No. DI-05-0068

Dear Mr. President:

I received a disclosure from a whistleblower, who requested anonymity, alleging that pharmacists did not conduct regular reviews of prescriptions filled on the super-tote line at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Mid-South Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy (CMOP) in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, before mailing them to patients. The whistleblower alleged that the failure to conduct such regular reviews was a violation of regulations governing the filling and distribution of prescriptions. The VA, the government's steward of veterans' medical care, corrected the error to ensure the accuracy of medical prescriptions received by its patients.

According to the whistleblower, all prescriptions must be carefully reviewed by pharmacists for accuracy prior to mailing to the patients. The whistleblower stated that at CMOP Murfreesboro, technicians were conducting the prescription reviews, not pharmacists. Thus, CMOP was operating its super tote line in violation of law, rule or regulation.

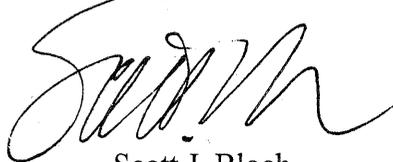
I required the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct an investigation into these disclosures pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(c) and (d). The Secretary tasked the VA Veterans Health Administration with conducting the investigation and writing the report. As discussed further in the attached report, the investigation substantiated the allegation that CMOP Murfreesboro's operation of the super tote line was a violation of law, rule or regulation. Disciplinary action was taken against the Director of the facility, and the VA reports that the operation of the super tote line is in compliance with federal requirements. The whistleblower did not comment on the report.

The President
Page 2

I have reviewed the original disclosures and the VA's report. Based on that review, I have determined that the agency's reports contain all of the information required by statute and that the findings appear to be reasonable.

As required by law, 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), I have sent a copy of the report to the Chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs. I have also filed a copy of the agency report in our public file and closed the matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Bloch", written in a cursive style.

Scott J. Bloch

Enclosures