

## Final Statement Whistleblower #1

This investigation and these reports came about because I needed a clerk/receptionist, GS 5, \$36,000 annual salary.

- When my receptionist left 3 years ago and was not replaced chaotic scheduling, missed orders, and unanswered calls from patients occurred. I asked for a replacement.  
RESULT: personal threats but **no receptionist**
- As the situation became even more alarming, I contacted the VA's Inspector General.  
RESULT: Serious reprisals and threats which would later force me to leave the VA but **no receptionist**
- The same information that I had sent to the VA OIG was sent to the VA through OSC's Disclosure Unit.  
RESULT: Lengthy and costly investigation occurs and **receptionist is finally hired.**

The VA responds very differently when they know someone is watching. This is why the OSC Disclosure Unit provides such valuable public service. The VA punishes employees who reveal serious problems far more than those who are responsible for the problems. I am grateful to the Prohibited Personnel Practices section of OSC for negotiating a settlement that has allowed me to continue my medical career.

Had the VA simply hired the receptionist that both common sense and VA rules required, considerable expense and the loss of an experienced primary care internist would have been avoided. However, according to the supplemental report, the VA Office of Accountability Review "completed an investigation and is not recommending any disciplinary action for senior leaders." This demonstrates that VA leadership believes there is such an abundance of taxpayer funds and quality primary care physicians that these losses are of no consequence to their mission which is providing quality care to Veterans. **Congress should take note of this.**



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