November 19, 2018

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren United States Senate

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter, jointly signed by Ranking Member Brian Schatz, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans' Affairs, and Related Agencies, Senate Committee on Appropriations, requesting that the Government Accountability Office review the involvement of private citizens in any activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

GAO accepts your request as work that is within the scope of its authority. At the current time we anticipate that staff with the required skills will be available to initiate an engagement in about five months. After we initiate this engagement we will consult with Mr. Brian Cohen or Mr. Feras Sleiman regularly to gain a better understanding of your needs and our ability to respond to those needs. Your request has been assigned to Ms. A. Nicole Clowers, Managing Director, Health Care. Closer to the time GAO can start this engagement, Ms. Clowers or a member of her team will contact Mr. Cohen or Mr. Sleiman to confirm that this request continues to be your priority for us. As applicable, we will also be in contact with the cognizant Inspector General's office to ensure that we are not duplicating efforts. If an issue arises during this coordination, we will consult with you regarding its resolution.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Clowers at 202-512-4010 or clowersa@gao.gov, or Mr. Carlos Diz, Assistant Director, Congressional Relations, on my staff at 202-512-8256 or dizc@gao.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Orice Williams Brown Managing Director Congressional Relations

cc: Mr. Brian Cohen

Mr. Feras Sleiman

Ref: CCAR 19-0112