

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1011

July 2, 2024

The Honorable Denis McDonough
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough,

I write to you to express concern about the security situation at the Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC). In late January, a veteran, wielding a knife, entered the Atlanta VAMC Emergency Room and was tragically shot and killed by a VA security officer.

I am heartened that Deputy Secretary Tanya Bradsher toured the Atlanta VAMC and that weapons detectors were added and installed at this facility in April. This should be the first step to secure not only the excellent and hardworking staff at the Atlanta VAMC, but also the veterans that are treated there.

Therefore, I request that the VA examine installing a badge entry system outside of the ER, so that only those with proper accreditation can enter this vulnerable part of the facility. This issue should be remedied immediately for the safety and security of employees and veterans alike. I also request a response to this letter with the results of your consideration into this matter.

Veterans give their lives in service of this nation, and we should take every opportunity possible to ensure they are receiving the highest level of care. This includes ensuring their safety at these care centers as well as making sure that the incredibly qualified staff at these medical centers are protected. Veterans must be able to seek care at a medical center that is safe. Employees must be able to work in a secure environment to be able to provide the excellent care that our veterans deserve.

Thank you for your attention to this request and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

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