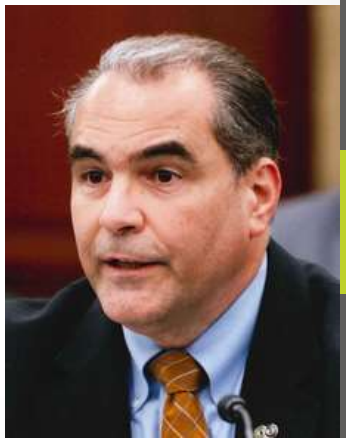
FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

The Future of the VA Health Care System

Joe Violante Helped Change Washington

Joe Violante Also Changed Over the Years

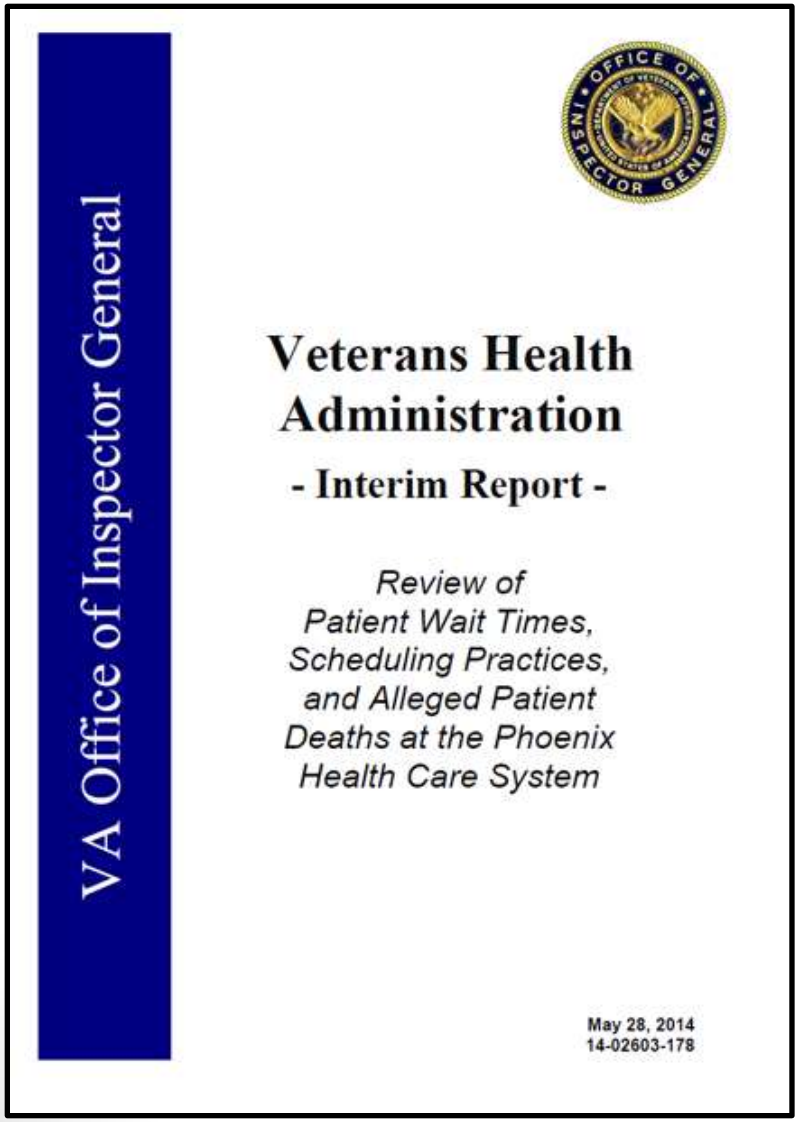
Thank You For Two Decades of Service to America's Veterans



Veterans Health Care and the VA

- **Current State of VA Health Care &Benefits**
- **Critical Issues and Emerging Threats**
- **Vision for the Future of VA**

IG Report Confirmed Waiting List Scandals



The VA OIG Report *"…substantiated that significant delays in access to care negatively impacted the quality of care…"*

New Leadership Took Over Across VA

New VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald

More Than 90% of All VA Medical Centers Have New Leadership

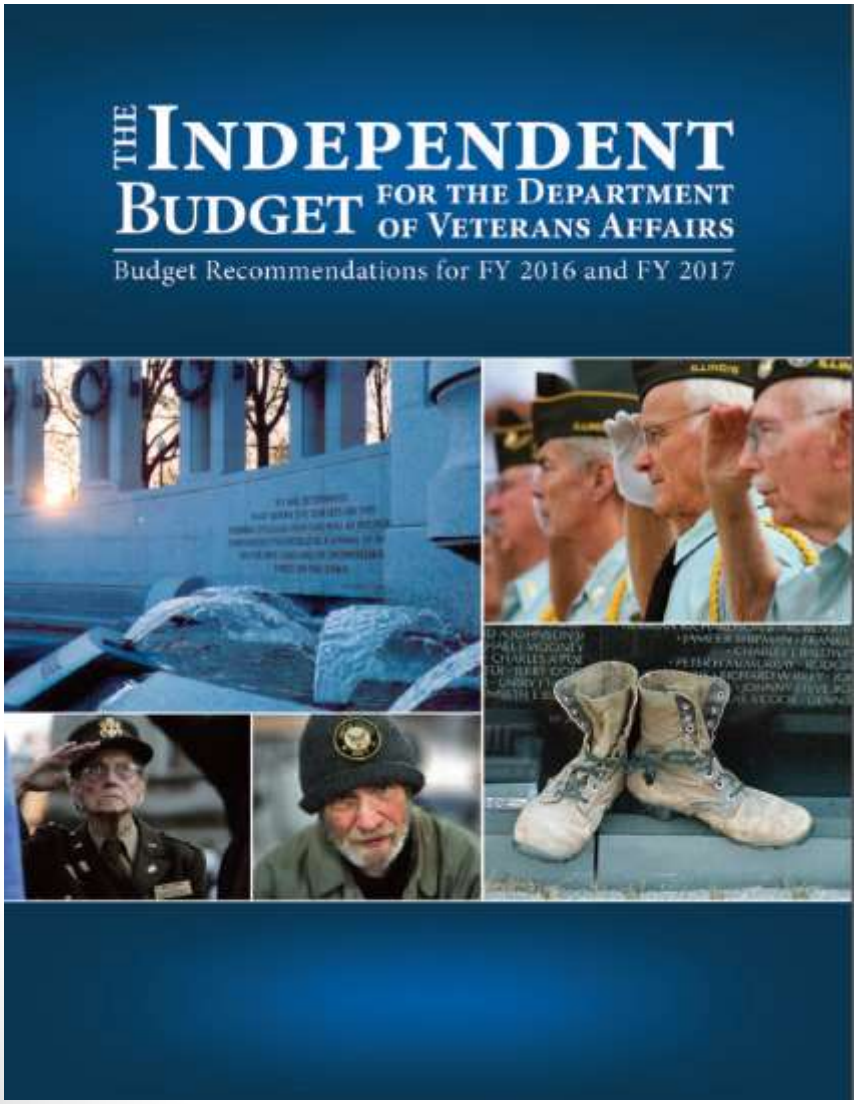
Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act

- **Created Temporary Choice Program for Non-VA Care in the Community**
- **Over 40 Miles from a VA Facility**
- **More Than 30 Days Wait for Appointments**
- **$10 Billion for Choice for 3 Years**
- **$7 Billion for New Staff and Space**

2003 Task Force Identified "Mismatch"

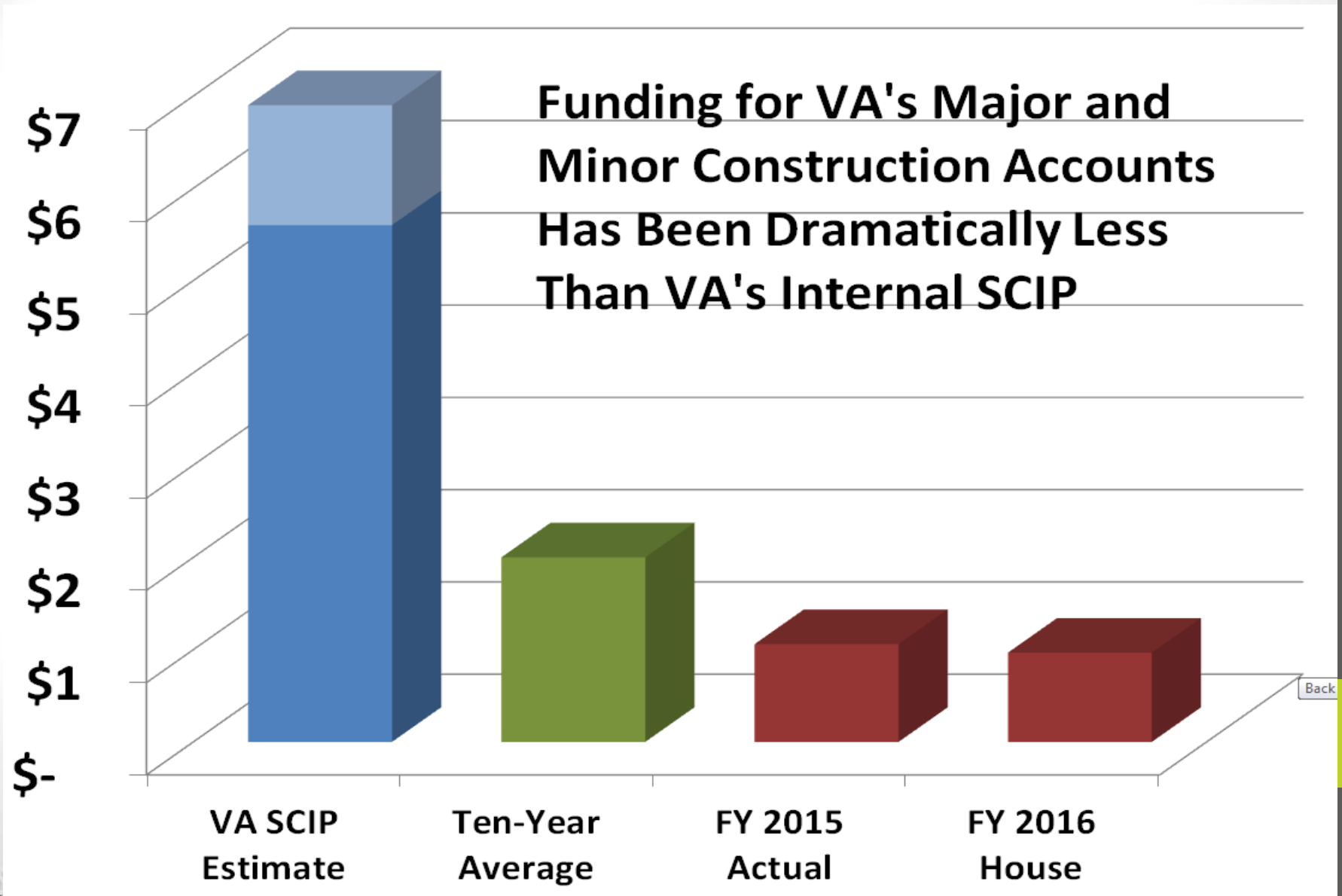
The PTF concluded that there was a *"…mismatch between demand for access and available VA funding to meet this demand…"*

The Independent Budget Consistently Recommended More Funding for VA



DAV and our Partners in the Independent Budget Estimate That VA Has Received Almost <u>$10 Billion Less</u> Than Needed Over the Past Decade to Provide Medical Care to Enrolled Veterans

Long Term Lack of Funding for VA Infrastructure



New Denver VA Medical Center?

Some Bad Proposals to "Reform" VA

- **Downsize the VA System**
  - ***"Centers of Excellence"***
- **War-Related Injuries ONLY**
- **All Routine Care OUTSIDE the VA**
- **Plastic Card for Private Health Care**
- **Completely Dismantle the VA**

Not All Choices Lead to Better Outcomes

- **“Choice” Doesn’t Guarantee**
  - ***Faster Care***
  - ***Closer Care***
  - ***Higher Quality Care***
  - ***Coordinated Care***

Not All Choices Lead to Better Outcomes

- **If Too Many Veterans Leave the VA**
  - ***Higher Per Patient Costs for VA***
  - ***Fewer VA Facilities***
  - ***Fewer Services Inside VA Facilities***

Not All Choices Lead to Better Outcomes

- **For Disabled Veterans Who Rely on VA, a Smaller VA Would Mean:**
  - ***Longer Travel Distances***
  - ***Longer Waiting Times***
  - ***Fractured Care With VA & Private Care***

Benefits Also Under Attack

- **BAD Proposals to “Reform” Benefits**
  - **Limit Individual Unemployability**
  - **Eliminate “Permanent” Disability Ratings**

VA Is Still the Best Choice for Veterans

- **The only integrated health care system dedicated to the unique needs of veterans**
- **Not driven by profit**
- **Focus on wellness, disease prevention**

VA Is Still the Best Choice for Veterans

- **Expertise in meeting specialized needs of veterans with war injuries**
  - ***Amputations***
  - ***Blindness***
  - ***Burns***
  - ***Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI)***
  - ***PTSD and Mental Illness***

VA Is Still the Best Choice for Veterans

- **World Class Veteran- Focused Clinical Research Also Benefits Non-Veterans**
- **Provides Graduate Medical Education to More Than 60-percent of the Nation's Physicians**

VA Is Still the Best Choice for Veterans

- **Independent Medical Experts Confirm High Quality and Patient Safety**
- **Focuses Exclusively on Treating Veterans**
- **VA Built on a Culture that Values Veterans, their Service and Sacrifices**

BUT, the VA Is Far From Perfect

We Are NOT Satisfied with Status Quo

- **VA Needs Reform from Top to Bottom**
- **Today's Challenges and Problems are OPPORTUNITIES for Real Reform**

DAV Framework for the Future of VA

- **REBUILD**
- **RESTRUCTURE**
- **REALIGN**
- **REFORM**

THE *4 R's*

DAV Framework for the Future of VA

REBUILD

- **Rebuild VA's Capacity to Provide Care**
  - ***Recruit, Hire & Retain Sufficient Staff to Meet Rising Demand***
  - ***Repair, Modernize and Expand Facilities to Maintain Adequate Treatment Space***

DAV Framework for the Future of VA

RESTRUCTURE

- **Restructure and consolidate VA's community care programs –**
  - ***A single extended care network***
  - ***Best features of existing care programs—including choice***
  - ***Separate and guaranteed funding***

DAV Framework for the Future of VA

REALIGN

- **Realign & Expand VA' health care services**
  - ***Meet diverse needs of future veterans***
    - ***Women Veterans***
    - ***Rural Veterans***

DAV Framework for the Future of VA

REFORM

- **Reform VA's Culture and Management**
  - ***Transparency***
  - ***Accountability***
  - ***Oversight***
  - ***Veteran-Centric***

What You Can Do to Help

- **Provide Feedback to Local VA**
- **Talk to Your Senators and Representatives**
- **Tell Us Your Stories – Good & Bad**

Download Fact Sheets on Veterans Issues

www.DAV.org