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April 16, 2008

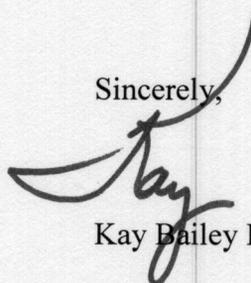
The Honorable James Peake  
Secretary  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing in regards to several concerns that have been raised regarding the quality of psychiatric care at the North Texas VA Medical Center in Dallas. It has come to my attention that four veterans admitted to this facility have recently committed suicide, forcing the hospital's director to suspend admissions. I find this most disturbing. I am committed to making sure that veterans in Texas and across our nation receive the best psychiatric care this nation can provide.

I am very troubled by these recent developments and am concerned about the quality of mental health care for veterans in northern Texas. Please provide me with the details of the VA Medical Inspector's study on the review of conditions at the North Texas VA Medical Center's psychiatric unit as soon as it is completed, as well as a briefing on the VA Director of Psychotherapy's visit to Dallas on April 22 to assess the current program and to recommend possible changes. I would like to know what the plan entails and if I can be helpful in any way.

Sincerely,



Kay Bailey Hutchison