



Department of Veterans Affairs

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February 17, 2014

The Honorable Deb Peters
The Honorable Fred Romkema
Joint Committee on Appropriations
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Senator Peters and Representative Romkema:

Listed below are my responses to your questions as additional information that will be provided during our appropriations hearing scheduled for February 20, 2014.

1. What activities will your agency eliminate, initiate, or significantly change?

- SDDVA embarked on a huge outreach campaign in 2014 which will expand into FY15. This campaign, Operation RAV (Reaching all Veterans), will be a partnership between our Department and the County Veterans Service Officers. We will be holding over 132 additional outreach events throughout the state in an effort to reach all 75,000 of South Dakota's veterans. Currently, the Department plays a significant role in the direct infusion of more than \$489 million annually into South Dakota's economy. We are hopeful that these outreach events will enable us to ensure that all veterans are receiving the benefits they have earned and thus could grow that \$489 million.

2. What initiatives for improving efficiency of operations are planned for FY15?

- Construction of the new veteran's home will deliver numerous efficiencies, including utility usage and maintenance costs.
- Our Benefits Division files all of their documents electronically with the Federal VA, thus more timely, more efficient and less opportunity for errors.

3. What are the standards of performance or metrics by which you judge the success and efficiencies of your agency's outcomes?

- These are measured by the revenue and performance indicators that are published in the Governor's Budget. This includes such things as the amount of monetary awards obtained for our veterans.

(continued)



4. What funds from FY14 are planned to be applied to FY15 activities? Are these amounts in addition to amounts contained in the Governor's FY14 budget?

- The Department of Veterans Affairs does not plan to have any FY14 funding applied to FY15 activities.

5. What are your plans regarding amending the FY14 General Bill?

- As a part of the Governor's proposed budget, the Department's FY14 budget will be amended for costs related to bureau billings and health insurance.

6. What programs and services offered by your agency have been, or will be affected by federal budget reductions due to the Budget Control Act of 2011 or other actions by the federal government? Were General Funds and/or Other Funds used to support the continuation of these programs or services?

- The Department of Veterans Affairs has not been affected by any federal actions or reductions.

If you need additional information, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

