

Sen. Franken Says VA Audit Results Raise Serious Issues; Presses to Find out More

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Today, U.S. Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) said the results of a new audit of the VA medical facilities raise some serious issues, and said that he's glad that the VA systems in Minneapolis and Rochester will undergo further scrutiny to determine the causes of veterans' wait times in those facilities.

"The results of the VA's audit raise some serious issues, and I've already spoken with Patrick Kelly, the head of the Minneapolis VA health system, to find out more about some of the specific concerns raised in the audit," said Sen. Franken. "I'm glad to see that scheduling practices at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center and in Rochester will be looked at more closely because we need to get to the bottom of what's going on. Since I got to the Senate, I've been working on making sure our veterans get the care they need on a timely basis, which is why I've introduced several bills to address the problem. I'm going to continue doing everything I can to make sure veterans can get the care they've earned. They deserve no less."

Sen. Franken has long been focused on making sure veterans have access to timely health care through the VA, and has introduced legislation to address the problem. Along with Sen. John Boozman (R-Ark.), Sen. Franken introduced the bipartisan Rural Veterans Health Care Improvement Act, which would push the VA to do better strategic planning for providing access to health care for veterans in rural areas. Sen. Franken also introduced the Quicker Benefits Delivery Act with Congressman Tim Walz (D-Minn.), which would help get benefits into the hands of veterans more quickly and help reduce the VA backlog, which resulted in hundreds of thousands of vets waiting for months to have their claims processed.