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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**SCOTT DIANDA**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

March 10, 2016

Representative Ed McBroom, Chair
House Committee on Oversight and Ethics

Representative Tom Barrett, Chair
House Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs

To the Joint Committee:

The report issued from the state's auditor general on the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans underscored the blatant disregard for the health and welfare of our veterans and the overwhelming need for swift corrective action. After personally reviewing the report, it can be simply put that the home was in a complete state of disaster.

According to the audit, the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans failed to adequately staff the facility 81% percent of the time, allegations of neglect and abuse went unheard, guidelines to administer medication were not followed and records were falsified to pull the wool over all of our eyes. To allow these conditions at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans to continue in this manner is unacceptable.

As the committee investigates why the deplorable conditions prospered for so long and who should be held responsible, I hope the committee will also craft recommendations to assure our veterans and their families that we indeed care for their health and welfare. We need to assure them that they will be treated with the upmost respect and dignity, just as we would want for our loved ones.

Our colleague, Representative Winnie Brinks has sponsored House Bill 5088 which would create the office of Michigan Veterans Facility Ombudsman and would be tasked with investigating complaints within both of our veteran homes. She has made a sincere effort to improve the conditions and ensure accountability for the sake our veterans. I ask that the committee recommend taking this important piece of legislation up for a hearing.

Sincerely,

Scott Dianda
State Representative
Michigan's 110th House District

SCOTT DIANDA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE



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