

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074  
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

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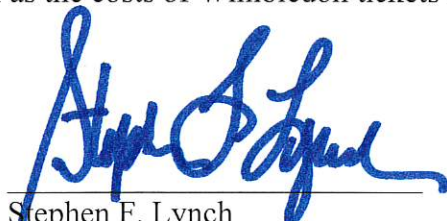
The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Security,  
Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:


As part of our Committee's ongoing investigation into travel abuses by the Trump Administration, We are writing to request that we hold a hearing on a trip taken by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, David Shulkin, to England and Denmark in July 2017, which was exposed today in a report by the Inspector General. The findings in this report raise serious concerns about Secretary Shulkin's judgment and his management of senior staff.

According to the report, the Inspector General identified several derelictions of responsibility. For instance, Secretary Shulkin improperly accepted tickets to Wimbledon for his family during this trip. In addition, his Chief of Staff "made false representations to a VA ethics official and altered the official record." As a result, the Department improperly paid for Secretary Shulkin's wife, Dr. Merle Bari, to accompany him on the trip.<sup>1</sup>

Our Committee has a responsibility to examine these findings closely, ensure that the Department is implementing all of the Inspector General's recommendations, and hold officials accountable for abusing taxpayer funds. In addition to holding a hearing with Secretary Shulkin, his Chief of Staff, and the Inspector General, we believe we should determine whether Secretary Shulkin has refunded to the U.S. Treasury all taxpayer funds that were expended inappropriately, as well as the costs of Wimbledon tickets for his family.

  
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Stephen F. Lynch  
Ranking Member

Sincerely

  
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Peter Welch  
Member

<sup>1</sup> Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General, *Administrative Investigation: VA Secretary and Delegation Travel to Europe* (Feb. 14, 2018) (online at [www.va.gov/oig/pubs/VAOIG-17-05909-106.pdf](http://www.va.gov/oig/pubs/VAOIG-17-05909-106.pdf)).



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member



Jimmy Gomez  
Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman,  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform