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August 25, 2026

The Honorable Mike Bost
Chairman
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Bost:

I write to express serious concern about the lack of meaningful oversight reflected in the witness list for the full committee hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) Program scheduled for September 2, 2026. Inviting only Deputy Secretary Paul Lawrence to testify on one of the most consequential modernization efforts in the department's history creates the unmistakable impression that the hearing is structured to highlight VA's perceived progress rather than conduct rigorous oversight.

Under any other administration, a hearing on a program of this scale would include witnesses from Oracle Health, Accenture Federal Services, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and VA's Office of Inspector General (OIG), in addition to representatives from the VA's EHRM Integration Office (EHRM-IO). Each of these entities provides a distinct and essential perspective on the EHRM program. As Members of this committee, we should expect and require such a comprehensive view when evaluating VA's modernization efforts; anything less falls short of even a basic standard for thorough review.

As you know, the Ranking Member is afforded the ability to invite a single witness. While I firmly believe that all the aforementioned entities should be included, I chose to invite Oracle Health. FedScoop's reporting on August 19, 2026¹, that VA quietly increased the contract ceiling by more than \$17 billion further underscores the need for Oracle's direct participation. This hearing is not only timely—it is essential. We must obtain clear answers from all relevant stakeholders about how the cost of the Oracle contract, and the broader program, has nearly tripled. We must also address ongoing concerns regarding system usability and stability that

¹ Will, K. S. (2026, August 19). VA-Oracle EHRM contract ceiling raises to nearly \$27 billion. *FedScoop*. <https://fedscoop.com/va-oracle-ehrm-contract-ceiling-raises/> (fedscoop.com)

continue to impact VA employees. Both VA and Oracle must be held accountable for these issues.

I strongly urge you to reconsider the witness list for this hearing. Although I have exercised my prerogative to invite Oracle, the inclusion of GAO, OIG, and Accenture is equally necessary to ensure a serious, well-informed assessment of the true status and future trajectory of the EHRM program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark Takano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Takano" clearly distinguishable.

Mark Takano
Ranking Member
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs