



Health, Education and Human Services Division

B-270959

January 29, 1996

The Honorable Alan K. Simpson
Chairman
The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate

The Honorable Bob Stump
Chairman
The Honorable G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
House of Representatives

On November 19 and 20, 1995, the President signed, respectively, Public Laws 104-54 and 104-56, Continuing Resolutions for fiscal year 1996 that included funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). As you know, 38 U.S.C. 8110(a)(4) requires that we report on several actions the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is required to take in response to each law making appropriations to VA. Specifically, the Director of OMB must

- authorize VA to employ at least the number of employees for which funds were appropriated in its medical care, medical and prosthetic research, and medical administration and miscellaneous operating expense accounts;
- provide VA with funds appropriated for these employees; and
- certify these actions to the Comptroller General and the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs not later than 30 days after the President signs the appropriation law.

On the basis of discussions with VA and OMB officials and a review of the pertinent documentation, we found that the Director substantially complied with the requirements of section 8110(a)(4).

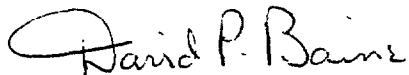
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More specifically, in a letter dated December 12, 1995, the Director of OMB provided written certification that OMB had provided to VA all funds authorized by the Continuing Resolution and that it had authorized not fewer than 206,154 full-time-equivalent employees (FTE) for the three medical accounts. This FTE level is identical to that requested by VA in its budget submission to the Congress.

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If you have any questions, please call Mr. Paul Reynolds or me on (202) 512-7101.



David P. Baine
Director, Health Care Delivery
and Quality Issues

(406118)

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