



Health, Education and Human Services Division

B-259223

November 10, 1994

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV  
Chairman

The Honorable Frank H. Murkowski  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
United States Senate

The Honorable G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery  
Chairman

The Honorable Bob Stump  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
House of Representatives

On September 28, 1994, the President signed Public Law 103-327, which included fiscal year 1995 appropriations 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, he must

- authorize VA to employ not less than 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 signed the appropriation law.

In a letter dated October 28, 1994, the OMB Director provided a written certification that OMB had provided the appropriated funds to VA and that it had authorized not less than 205,649 full-time-equivalent employees (FTE) for the three medical accounts. The Director based this figure on VA's updated estimate of its fiscal year 1995 FTE needs, as stated in the fiscal year 1996 budget submission estimate. The number is 93 FTEs fewer than in the VA fiscal year 1995 budget submission estimate. The VA budget official responsible for VA's medical

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accounts budgets indicated that VA agrees with OMB's fiscal year 1995 FTE authorization for the three medical accounts.

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

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If you have any questions, please call Stephen Backhus or me on (202) 512-7101.

Sincerely yours,



David P. Baine  
Director, Federal Health  
Care Delivery Issues

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