

# VA culture of reprisals against whistleblowers remains strong after scandal

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## Federal Diary

By [Joe Davidson](#) | Columnist

It's been about 17 months since revelations over the cover-up of long patient wait times at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities exploded.

It's been about 16 months since former VA secretary Eric K. Shinseki resigned as the scandal reached a boil.

It's been about 14 months since the Senate confirmed Robert McDonald to replace Shinseki.

It's about time things changed.



A visitor leaves the Sacramento Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Rancho Cordova, Calif., on April 2, 2015. (AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli, File)

But testimony at a Senate hearing Tuesday demonstrated that despite vigorous efforts from the new VA leadership, the department remains a dangerous place for whistleblowers who report wrong doing.

“The VA has a culture problem with whistleblower retaliation,” said Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

[\[After the VA scandal, veterans were told their wait for care would get shorter. But it's actually getting worse.\]](#)