South Dakota Legislative Research Council

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April 8, 2014

Mr. Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
Soldiers and Sailors Building
Pierre, SD 57501

Letter of Intent Regarding Legislation Approved in the 2014 Session

Dear Secretary Zimmerman:

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations in approving your appropriation in the 2014 Legislative Session. As such, it supplements that appropriation with a specific policy guideline as approved on March 31, 2014.

While this guideline does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency and its continued funding.

The 2014 South Dakota Legislature approved a special general fund appropriation of $16,365,044 to the Department of Veterans Affairs for costs related to the design, construction, land purchase, and equipping of a veterans' home near Hot Springs.

It is the intent of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations that the Department of Veterans Affairs provide status reports containing construction timelines, budget updates, and any projected deviations from the proposal as presented to the Legislature. The status reports should be provided to the Committee on a quarterly basis at a minimum, and more frequently if deviations from the original plan and budget develop.

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http://legis.state.sd.us

Thank you for your cooperation.

/S/ Senator Deb Peters

/S/ Representative Fred Romkema

Senator Deb Peters
Co-Chair, Interim Joint Appropriations

Representative Fred Romkema
Co-Chair, Interim Joint Appropriations

cc: Marty Guindon, Auditor General
Jason Dilges, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management