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Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Dear Co-Chairmen Senator Jason A. Barickman and Representative Robert Rita,

Our nation's heroes have served our state and communities with great honor and dedication. Once they return home, it is our duty to honor the sacrifices they have made to protect our freedoms and democracy.

The recurring outbreaks of Legionnaires disease at Quincy Veterans' Home is evidence of clear mismanagement and mistreatment of Illinois' veterans resulting in 13 deaths within the last three years. Our veterans have survived war and foreign conflicts – the greatest danger they face should not be living their golden years in a state facility.

Today, I ask the Illinois Audit Commission to act swiftly to thoughtfully examine the gross mismanagements at Quincy Veterans' Home to ensure we protect the well-being of Illinois' veterans and guarantee they receive the services and care they deserve.

I will file a resolution today to quickly start an audit into the Quincy Veterans' Home. I'm asking for your support in my request. The resolution will specify the parameters of the audit and the questions and conditions I would like to examine.

Illinois veterans have put their lives on the line for us, now it is the time for us to stand up for them. The quicker we have a clear picture of this ongoing epidemic, the faster we will be able to remedy the situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Cullerton".

Tom Cullerton
State Senator, District 23

CC Senator Linda Holmes
Senator Iris Y. Martinez
Senator Jim Oberweis
Senator Dale Righter
Representative Mark Batinick
Representative Fred Crespo
Representative Barbara Flynn Currie
Representative Sheri Jesiel
Representative Joe Sosnowski