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ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

Washington, DC 20515-0606

September 7, 2011

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The Honorable Robert Wittman  
Chairman, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Wittman:

I am deeply concerned about allegations of widespread corruption involving U.S. military aid and the mistreatment of patients at the Dawood National Military Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan. Recent media reports have outlined the actions of corrupt Afghan government officials, including allegations that up to \$42 million in U.S. medical aid supplies is unaccounted for and never reached the Afghan military's clinics and hospitals. Additionally, staff at the U.S.-funded central Afghan military hospital in Kabul allegedly allowed patients to die of malnourishment and untreated wounds if they failed to pay the bribes demanded by the hospital's staff. Staff members at the hospital are also accused of selling U.S. taxpayer-funded medical supplies intended for their patients.

U.S. military advisors attached to the Afghan National Army's medical corps report that up to \$42 million in U.S.-donated medical supplies failed to reach the Afghan military clinics they were intended for in 2010. Once the supplies were turned over to the Afghan government, U.S. forces were unable to account for them, but suggested that it was likely Afghan officials sold the medical supplies rather than use them for their intended purpose. This corruption is not limited to U.S.-donated medical supplies; the central Afghan military hospital also appears to be rife with graft and abuse.

The Dawood National Military Hospital – tasked to treat injured members of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) – is heavily supported by the U.S. government. The majority of the hospital's supplies and staff salaries are funded by U.S. taxpayers. Members of the hospital's staff are alleged to have sold medical supplies for personal profit, extorted bribes from patients and patients' families, and allowed many patients to die from preventable causes such as malnourishment and improper hygiene. These violations of basic medical ethics, coupled with rampant corruption, are an outrage. I believe that congressional oversight is necessary to put an end to the deplorable conditions at the hospital and root out the endemic corruption there.

During this time when Congress has to cut back on domestic priorities due to budget constraints, it is ludicrous that U.S. taxpayer dollars were embezzled by members of the hospital's administration while they willfully neglected injured Afghan soldiers and police personnel. The brave men and women of our armed forces are working hard to transition

operational control in Afghanistan to the ANSF by 2014. Massive corruption in the Afghan government, as evident in these two instances, jeopardizes this entire strategy.

I look forward to working with you and the rest of the Subcommittee to establish a plan of action that will confirm the extent of the willful abuse of patients at the hospital, hold corrupt individuals accountable, and make sure that the appropriate actions are taken to stop the waste of U.S. taxpayer dollars.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Coffman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress