



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR  
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND LABOR RELATIONS  
WASHINGTON DC 20420

April 13, 2011

Ami Pendergrass Esq.  
Attorney, National Veterans Affairs Council (NVAC) (#53)  
American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), AFL-CIO  
P.O. Box 320430  
Alexandria, VA 22320

Dear Ms. Pendergrass:

This is in response to your grievance dated, March 23, 2011, regarding Public Law 111-163 – Pay Cap Increase for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (hereinafter referred to as “CRNA”). In your grievance you claim the Department (“VA”) violated PL 111-163, Section 601(g) and (h); Article 36, “Timely and Proper Compensation” and all relevant past practices and procedures between the Union and the VA that apply to compensation as it relates to providing a pay cap increase and accompanying retroactive pay for CRNAs.”

More specifically, in your grievance you assert that on or about March 8, 2011, VA, by and through its representatives and/or agents, has: (1) failed to compensate CRNAs at the current higher rate of pay based on the new statutory pay cap; (2) failed to provide retroactive compensation to May 5, 2010, as required by PL 111-163; and (3) failed to correct employee records to reflect the higher rate of pay effective September 2010.”

On March 31, 2011, Alan Bernstein, Director of Career Development and Workforce Management, Office of Nurse Service, advised that he spoke with William Wetmore, Executive Vice President, NVAC. It seems that during their conversation Mr. Bernstein informed Mr. Wetmore that the DFAS would be making the needed corrections to allow CRNA employees to receive their pay increase and appropriate back pay. Mr. Wetmore indicated that if the aforementioned corrections were in place, the grievance would be withdrawn.

On April 4, 2011, Roy Coles, Director, Payroll & HR Systems Service (047E2) confirmed that the CRNA employees received their correct salary, to include retroactive pay on April 1, 2011. This confirmation was sent to you via e-mail on April 4, 2011.

Since the CRNA employees were paid, to include retroactive pay, we believe that the grounds for your grievance have been resolved. Accordingly, we request that you withdraw your grievance at your earliest convenience.

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If you have any additional questions concerning this matter, please contact Gia Chemsian, VA Office of General Counsel, at (202) 329-1519 or Edson Morales, Office of Labor-Management Relations, at 631-261-4400 ext. 2746.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "for Denise Bragg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leslie Wiggins  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Labor-Management Relations