



## VA Eviction Talking Points for Members to Use with Media

- Today, the VA under this administration is taking an unprecedented step in evicting VA employees' unions from the worksite.
- Make no mistake, this is union-busting, plain and simple. It's an attempt to strip VA employees of their ability to hold rogue managers accountable and resolve workplace issues.
- The political appointees running the VA are right now stooping so low as to move furniture out of office space held by unions for decades, in some cases. They told us the furniture is unavailable to rent. So even if we decided to rent the space, we wouldn't have basic office needs like a chair, a desk, or a filing cabinet.
- But other groups inside this building are able to occupy space at the VA without issue. {Name a few groups inside your VA}. Somehow it seems like only the actual VA employees – many of whom are veterans themselves and all of whom come to work every day to serve the veterans in our communities – it seems like we're the only ones being targeted for different, discriminatory treatment.
- Our union does important work every day to make the VA the best place for veterans in our community to receive comprehensive care. We hold rogue managers accountable, help resolve workplace disputes, and bring issues that affect veterans' care to management's attention for resolution.
- In fact, it was unionized VA employees who have saved veterans lives by blowing the whistle in cases like the deadly Legionnaires outbreak in the Pittsburgh VA just a few short years ago.
- If the VA keeps whittling away at employees' rights inside the VA, if they keep hammering away at morale like they have been with actions like these, if they keep giving unaccountable managers absolute authority, if they keep making it harder to frontline employees to resolve issues, it's going to impact the quality of care our veterans receive.
- Our union has already filed a national grievance about this and local unions like ours are filing our own grievances at the local level as well. We intend to exhaust every option available to us to fight back against this blatant union busting.
- Whether it's a business or a VA hospital, you can't run an effective organization if you are constantly at war with your own frontline employees and doing things to make them feel not just silenced – but like their voice doesn't matter to you at all.
- According to [2017 statistics from the Economic Policy Institute](#), veterans themselves are 33% more likely to be covered by a union contract than the average American – so

veterans understand the importance of unions and the benefits unions bring to the worksite.

- Every veteran should know that the VA is kicking unions out of the worksite, hurting the frontline employees who provide them care – and every veteran should have a problem with that and the impact it may have on their care.