Sen. McConnell request for information related to methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) Hospital Associated Infections (HAI’s): Please provide data on the rate of MRSA HAI’s per 1000 bed days in VA hospitals. The time period requested is 2015 through the most recent available reporting period.

VA Response:
The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administrations (VHA) has implemented numerous efforts to reduce healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). For many decades, VHA has had an active infection prevention and control program nationally. This activity has been enhanced by national standardization and implementation of infection prevention and control policies at VA medical facilities across the country.

In 2007, VHA introduced a methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) Prevention Initiative that focused on a bundle to reduce MRSA HAIs. This included active surveillance screening for the presence of MRSA, use of contact precautions for patients colonized or infected with MRSA, emphasis on hand hygiene, and cultural transformation where infection prevention and control becomes everyone’s responsibility. The full implementation of the MRSA bundle in 2007 has resulted in significant reductions in MRSA HAIs in VA acute care settings (83.6 percent reduction through 2022) including Spinal Cord Injury Units (90.8 percent reduction through 2022), and Community Living Centers (68.2 percent reduction through 2022).

MRSA Healthcare-Associated Infection Rates - VHA Nationwide
FY 2008 - FY 2022 (Q1-Q2)