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My only reason for ever wanting to meet with Congressman Bob Filner and later Mayor Bob Filner was to obtain help for Katherine. I deeply admire Katherine and her dedicated service to our country. She is like family to me.

I was very happy when Congressman Filner first met with us two years ago and indicated that he wanted the VA to resolve her ongoing difficulties to get accurately evaluated and rated for her injuries which she sustained while serving in Iraq.

I was shocked when during the June 2013 meeting with the Mayor and Katherine in the Mayor's office that the Mayor suddenly asked Katherine to leave the room so that he could meet with me alone. I thought that the Mayor wanted to ask me questions about Katherine's injuries and level of care because I was her official caregiver and that he was trying to do that in private, in order not to inflict more stress on Katherine by engaging in a discussion about her injuries in front of her.

Instead, however, I was stunned when we were alone to find that he suddenly changed the conversation from professional to personal. It was extremely disturbing to me that he made it very clear to me that his expectation was that his help for Katherine depended on my willingness to go to dinner with him, spend personal time with him and be seen in public with him.

Mayor Filner's advances and behavior toward me was absolutely unwanted. I felt that his rubbing my arm and telling me to relax and making me feel that help for Katherine was contingent on my going out with him was extremely inappropriate and unacceptable.

I was not there looking for a date. I was only there looking for assistance for Katherine, an injured US Marine in my care.

I believe that a person in power should not take advantage of their position to gain a sexual advantage for themselves. It is wrong and that is why I am speaking out today.

Michelle Tyler

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