

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2025

The Honorable Doug Collins  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Collins,

Your administration's massive cuts to the Department of Veterans Affairs are harming American veterans. We urge you to immediately implement recent U.S. district court rulings by reversing your administration's attacks on veterans' services.<sup>1</sup> We also ask that you provide public information about how these cuts are damaging care for veterans in our districts.

The Trump Administration's indiscriminate termination of over 1,000 Department of Veterans Affairs employees have already put services for veterans at risk, and your plans to fire over 80,000 total workers would do even more serious damage. Two district courts ruled on March 13th that the firing of probationary employees at the VA was unlawful and directed you to reinstate them March 17 at 1 p.m. ET.<sup>2</sup> We expect full compliance with this court order and urge you to rescind plans for future layoffs. We also urge you to halt your plans for more mass firings. Texas communities are already feeling the effects of VA job cuts and additional cuts — especially at the magnitude being discussed — would be devastating for our veterans and military families.

Layoffs are underway at Texas Department of Veterans Affairs sites. Our offices have received reports that cuts occurred with little to no awareness from supervisors. We've also heard reports that, in one VA clinic, at least two departments lost half their staff, creating delays for patients.

A 15% cut to the VA work force will increase wait times, reduce access to critical care, and have a detrimental effect on our veterans. Your administration's attacks on veterans' services would also mean more veterans would lose their jobs because they make up 25% of the VA workforce.

We support reforms that improve VA services. That is why Congress passed the PACT Act in 2022 to expand VA benefits and reduce wait times. As a result of this legislation, the VA was able to decrease average wait times for VA primary care in 2024 by 11% while delivering care to more veterans. Your administration's efforts to downsize the VA workforce will reverse that progress.

We ask that you rehire fired employees and respond to the following questions by March 20th:

1. All federal agencies were directed to submit reduction in workforce plans by March 13th. We request an unredacted copy of your proposal and urge you to suspend all planned layoffs.
2. Which positions were eliminated at the VA after you fired 1,000 employees?
3. How many veterans who work at the VA were fired?
4. How did wait times change after the first round of VA firings?

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<sup>1</sup> "Second judge orders thousands of probationary employees fired by Trump to be reinstated," NBC News, March 13, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/trump-administration/judge-orders-thousands-probationary-employees-fired-trump-reinstated-rcna196366>.

<sup>2</sup> "Judges order Trump officials to offer jobs back to thousands of fired workers," Washington Post, March 14, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/03/13/trump-probationary-federal-worker-firings-judge-ruling/>.

5. Are there VA services veterans will no longer be able to access because of staffing cuts? If yes, which ones?
6. What additional layoffs do you plan to make, and what is the timeline for future layoffs?

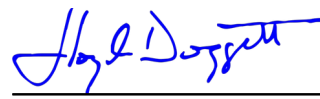
Veteran care should not suffer to pay for tax cuts for billionaires and giant corporations. Our veterans honorably served to protect this country. We must improve care and support for our veterans, rather than slash the basic services that we do provide. We urge you to reverse the reckless cuts you have made to veteran services.

Sincerely,



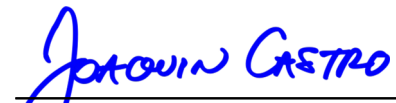
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Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress