

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 4, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Collins,

Thank you for your testimony at our hearing last week. We appreciate you and your team engaging with this Committee on the future of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and your efforts to improve the care it provides to veterans. That hearing will be one of several public engagements on this topic and we look forward to continuing a productive dialogue with you and your team as we fulfil our congressional oversight duties.

We are writing to document in one place the requests for information and briefings our Committee has made related to the hearing and several briefings on the Restructure for Impact and Sustainability Effort, or RISE, and the state of VA operations. As stated during the hearing, transparency is essential - especially as it relates to your proposed reorganization of VHA - to ensure veterans can access the care and benefits they have earned. You have already completed or begun to address several requests made during the hearing, and our staff is standing by to receive the additional information and briefings detailed below.

The list of information requests is as follows:

1. A full accounting of spending for the \$6 billion Congress gave VA in Fiscal Year 2025 to meet higher than expected cost and demand for VA health care. Specifically, proof this funding was not used to subsidize the deferred resignation program and/or voluntary early retirement authority.
2. A detailed compilation of current workforce data, including the number of staff who have left VA and those who have come onboard since January 2025, broken down by facility and position.
3. A detailed breakdown of the baseline staffing caps being established and any positions, including vacant positions, being cut based on those caps, broken down by facility and position.
4. The release of the annual veteran suicide prevention report.
5. A copy of the dashboard information referenced by Under Secretary Bartrum and others showing national wait time averages for primary care, mental health care, and specialty care for January of 2026. Please also provide a breakdown by medical center of the same information. We request to receive this information on a monthly basis moving forward.

6. A one-time briefing for Committee staff on how the information in the dashboard is compiled and validated and how wait times are calculated.
7. An action plan for a full-service medical center in New Hampshire.
8. A briefing by Deputy Secretary Lawrence for the Michigan delegation on the Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) program before April 11, 2026.
9. An accurate and updated list of cancelled contracts, including the breakdown of how much each contract cost and a description of what each contract did. When you stated you would work to alleviate our concerns with this matter, a list detailing this information would be extremely helpful for us to have a better picture of the services VA still offers.
10. The white paper and updates on development of the VHA reorganization plan as they occur, with corresponding analysis.
11. Once available, share the risk assessment list for veterans' timely access to care under the VHA reorganization plan and provide a briefing on VA's plan to mitigate those risks.
12. List of key performance indicators (KPIs) and data collection methods implemented in developing the VHA reorganization plan.
13. List of the 18 KPIs every VA Medical Center now uses per VHA's instructions, and each facility's data on these KPIs.
14. An explanation of the roles and responsibilities of the VISNs and of the HSAs once RISE is implemented.
15. A list of benchmarks and specific outcomes VA and this Committee can use to evaluate the success of RISE after it is implemented.
16. As you mentioned during the hearing, VA has reduced the overall inventory of disability and pension claims pending decision. Please provide actions VA has taken or plans to take to reduce the inventory of claims.

We look forward to receiving the information above so the Committee can adequately conduct oversight and allow us to better ensure veterans can receive the highest quality care and benefits possible. Sharing this information in a transparent and timely manner will enable more constructive dialogues moving forward about the state of the Department. We also appreciate your commitment during the hearing that VA will meet with the Committee when invited to do so on a bipartisan basis. We are confident that working together on major reforms to VA will help produce the best outcomes for veterans and the dedicated VA staff that serve them.

Sincerely,



Jerry Moran
Chairman



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member