

REPUBLICANS

MIKE BOST, ILLINOIS, CHAIRMAN
AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN, AMERICAN SAMOA
JACK BERGMAN, MICHIGAN
NANCY MACE, SOUTH CAROLINA
MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS, IOWA
GREGORY F. MURPHY, NORTH CAROLINA
DERRICK VAN ORDEN, WISCONSIN
MORGAN LUTTRELL, TEXAS
JUAN CISCOMANI, ARIZONA
KEITH SELF, TEXAS
JEN KIGGANS, VIRGINIA
ABE HAMADEH, ARIZONA
KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
TOM BARRETT, MICHIGAN

JON CLARK
STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

364 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

DEMOCRATS

MARK TAKANO, CALIFORNIA, RANKING MEMBER
JULIA BROWNLEY, CALIFORNIA
CHRIS PAPPAS, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, FLORIDA
MORGAN MCGARVEY, KENTUCKY
DELIA RAMIREZ, ILLINOIS
NIKKI BUDZINSKI, ILLINOIS
TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY, NEW YORK
MAXINE DEXTER, OREGON
HERB CONAWAY, NEW JERSEY
KELLY MORRISON, MINNESOTA

MATT REEL
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

March 27, 2026

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you to your team for appearing as witnesses before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Legislative Hearing that was held on March 18, 2026.

As a follow-up to the hearing, Representative Abe Hamadeh has requested Mr. Phillip Christy, Chief Acquisition Officer, respond to the attached questions for the record.

The Committee requests a written response no later than April 20, 2026, so they may be made part of the record. If you have any questions, please let my staff know.

Sincerely,



MIKE BOST
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

cc: The Honorable Mark Takano, Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Enclosures: Questions for the Record submitted by Rep. Abe Hamadeh

Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Full Committee

Reauthorization of Veterans' Employment and Benefits Programs
(03/18/2026)

Questions for the Record

Submitted by Congressman Hamadeh

Congressional Reauthorization Authority
Mr. Phillip Christy, Department of Veterans Affairs:

In its written testimony, the Department claims to support congressional oversight, yet warns this Committee against pursuing a comprehensive reauthorization strategy modeled on the NDAA process, characterizing it as "disruptive" to VA benefits and services and too resource-intensive. In plain terms, that is VA telling Congress that exercising Article I authority over programs spending hundreds of billions in taxpayer dollars is simply too much trouble.

Question: Why should this Committee accept internal administrative oversight as a substitute for congressional authorization, when Congress's role under Article I is to authorize, oversee, and fund federal programs?

ANSWER:

Question: Is the Department's position that Congress should defer its constitutional oversight authority to VA's internal mechanisms? If not, what specifically does VA object to: oversight, accountability, or the possibility that Congress may change a status quo the Department finds comfortable?

ANSWER:

Question: VA's testimony specifically suggests that an annual authorization process, similar to the NDAA model used for the Department of Defense, could prove disruptive to VA benefits and services. Can the Department explain why regular congressional authorization and oversight would be considered disruptive at VA, when that is the standard oversight framework for other major federal departments and major national priorities?

ANSWER:

Question: Is VA suggesting that programs administering hundreds of billions in taxpayer funding should continue indefinitely without periodic congressional authorization simply because the Department finds reauthorization inconvenient? If not, please articulate the Department's preferred oversight framework and cadence with specificity.

ANSWER:

Question: VA's testimony states that Congress's interest in clearer accounting and better oversight could be achieved through "less disruptive and resource-intensive means," and that VA would welcome the opportunity to work with Congress on reforming and simplifying existing law. What are those means? What statutory reauthorization framework does VA support, and what concrete proposal is VA offering this Committee instead of advising Congress on what not to do?

ANSWER:

Question: VA's testimony acknowledges that eligibility rules, personnel authorities, and other provisions of Title 38 have become confusing and unnecessarily complicated, and that Congress and VA should work together to simplify them. If even VA concedes the law has become confusing for veterans, VA staff, and the public, why is a structured congressional reauthorization effort the wrong vehicle to address that? Please explain the Department's rationale for preferring piecemeal cleanup over a comprehensive authorization model.

ANSWER:

***H.R. 6861, Consolidating Veteran Employment Services for Improved Performance Act
Ms. Margarita Devlin, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs:***

Question: H.R. 6861 would transfer DOL-VETS programs to VA under a new Deputy Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. Please provide the following for the record: (a) the current number of State Director of Veterans' Employment and Training (SDVET) positions and vacancies within those positions; and (b) the number of corrective action plans administered at the Department of Labor for failing to meet basic veteran employment metrics, and the outcomes of those plans.

ANSWER:

Question: If VA cannot currently track basic accountability metrics at the Department of Labor for veterans' employment programs, why should Congress believe VA can coordinate more

effectively with another Department than it could if it managed the programs directly under its own authority?

ANSWER:

Question: The Department's testimony claims that transferring veterans' employment programs from DOL to VA would fragment coordination and disrupt existing services. Based on the Department's inside experience, is there duplication or overlap within the services provided by VA and DOL-VETS? If the Department maintains there is no material duplication, please identify a single successful inter-agency veterans employment outcome that would have been impossible had all those programs resided under one roof at VA.

ANSWER:

Question: Under the current framework, when the inter-agency system fails a veteran seeking employment services, who is accountable? VA points to Labor; Labor points back to VA. The veteran receives paperwork, referrals, and excuses. Please describe the specific chain of accountability that exists today when a veteran falls through the cracks between agencies, including the name and title of the single official responsible for that veteran's outcome.

ANSWER:

Question: We have heard that the VA will become the lead agency for federal government procurement of nitrile gloves. Do you have a timeline or an estimated date for the release of the RFP?

ANSWER:

Question: Will an RFI be issued prior to the RFP?

ANSWER:

Question: Will the solicitation be limited to glove manufacturers, excluding distributors and specialty organizations?

ANSWER:

Question: What type of contract do you anticipate: LPTA, FFP, CPFF, or something else?

ANSWER:

Outstanding QFR Follow-Up: CCN NextGen Hearing (01/22/2026)
Department of Veterans Affairs:

Question: On or about January 30, 2026, Rep. Hamadeh submitted Questions for the Record following the January 22, 2026 hearing on the Community Care Network (CCN) NextGen contract. Those questions addressed medical massage therapy (MMT) reimbursement under the Veterans Community Care Network, the application of the Medicare Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR) to veterans' community care claims, MISSION Act compliance regarding scheduling and access standards, and Third Party Administrator (TPA) scheduling flexibilities. As of the date of this submission, the Department has not provided responses. Please provide complete answers to all previously submitted QFRs at the earliest opportunity, and indicate the specific date by which the Department expects to deliver those responses to the Committee.

ANSWER:

For questions regarding these QFRs, please contact:
Cameron Erickson, Legislative Director
Office of Congressman Abraham J. Hamadeh (AZ-08)
cameron.erickson@mail.house.gov | 202-226-5536