

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1005

August 8, 2025

The Honorable Douglas A. Collins
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Collins,

I write with extreme concern regarding the high volume of departures of employees, including those who serve in veteran-facing and mission critical roles, across the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). To that end, I request detailed data regarding the VA workforce to assess the impact of attrition on veteran access to care and benefits in the Metropolitan Atlanta area here in Georgia.

You have repeatedly stated in congressional hearings and other public appearances that changes you are making at VA would not impact the delivery of care and benefits to veterans. However, the July issue of VA's Workforce Dashboard shows that, for this fiscal year, the net losses for veteran-facing employees across VA are estimated at over 8,700. This is a stark number compared to the Biden Administration, which *added* a net 8,700 employees during the same period in FY 2024.¹ The current number of employee losses under your leadership includes mission-essential jobs. Specifically, you have lost over: 2,129 registered nurses, 1,283 medical support assistants, 751 physicians, and 1,294 veteran claim examiners.

With this data in mind, it is clear that your actions as Secretary are negatively impacting the VA workforce. VA is attriting employees that are critical to VA's ability to meet its mission to serve veterans at an alarming rate. Your recent decision to terminate collective bargaining agreements for the vast majority of VA workers will most certainly lead to more employees choosing to leave the Department and fewer prospective workers choosing VA as an employer. Veterans' access to their earned care and benefits **will** be affected.

As the Representative of the Fifth Congressional District of Georgia, which is home to the Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta VA Medical Center, I am requesting a more detailed understanding of the current workforce situation in my district so that I can assess the impact to the veterans I represent. Specifically, I ask for data on all employee departures from January 1,

¹ VA Workforce Dashboard, Issue 27 (July 25, 2025), <https://www.va.gov/EMPLOYEE/docs/workforce/VA-Workforce-Dashboard-Issue-27.pdf>

2025, through August 8, 2025, within the Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta VA Medical Center and the Senator Johnny Isakson VA Atlanta Regional Office. The data should include:

- Occupation
- Job title
- Grade and step level
- Veteran status
- Disability status
- Military spouse status
- Years in service at VA
- Facility/location
- Reason for departure
- Whether the employee was retirement-eligible
- Whether the employee participated in the Deferred Resignation Program (DRP)
- Whether the employee was terminated
- Whether the employee resigned

I also request detailed data on the number and type of veteran appointments cancelled or rescheduled due to staffing shortages at Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta VA Medical Center, as well as the number of completed and pending claims at the Senator Johnny Isakson VA Atlanta Regional Office since January 1, 2025.

This information is critical to understanding workforce trends and ensuring the needs of veterans in metropolitan Atlanta region continue to be met.

You are a former Member of Congress who represented the State of Georgia, so I find your actions as Secretary, disappointing. As a reminder, the State of Georgia is home to some of the best champions for veterans in Georgia like former U.S. Senators Max Cleland and Johnny Isakson. The veterans and constituents I represent deserve a full and transparent accounting of how these policies are affecting the services they rely on. I urge your prompt attention to this request and look forward to your detailed response by August 29, 2025.

Sincerely,



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress