

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 15, 2025

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Administration's late-night actions on February 13, 2025, to terminate over 1,000 dedicated federal civil servants at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) directly contradicts your recent testimony before the U.S. Senate, where you said, "I want to strengthen VA so it works better for America's heroes, and I will embrace your oversight and seek your counsel as we work together to do just that." Yet, rather than seeking the counsel of Congress, you took unilateral action to abruptly dismiss service-disabled veterans, military spouses, medical researchers, and countless others without any apparent justification—undermining the very mission of VA. There is nothing *strengthening* about gutting the workforce with the sacred mission to serve veterans, caregivers, and survivors.

It defies logic that you would terminate employees who are veterans themselves and who are serving veterans daily, all without regard to their performance or the devastating consequences of these firings. We know this to be the case because, on February 14, 2025, when congressional staff requested these justifications from your Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, the official currently performing the delegable duties of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs claimed no one in that office had knowledge of these actions until VA's press release was issued the night of February 13, 2025, at 9:06 p.m. This admission underscores the reckless, ill-planned nature of these firings, as well as a complete lack of transparency in how they were executed.

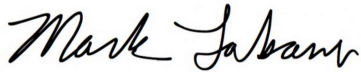
Adding to our concerns, this mass firing follows a directive from the Office of Personnel Management instructing federal agencies, including VA, to provide justifications for retaining probationary employees. The sequence of events strongly suggests that the OPM directive was nothing more than a hollow exercise, ignored in favor of an ideological purge. This lack of meaningful review casts serious doubt on your claim that "these moves will not negatively impact VA health care, benefits or beneficiaries."

Given these serious concerns, we demand that you personally brief Members of Congress by no later than February 26, 2025, and that at this briefing you be prepared to thoroughly answer Members' questions and to produce documentation and other evidence to support your claims.

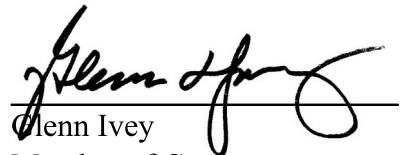
This Administration may believe it can run government agencies the way Elon Musk gutted Twitter—by arbitrarily slashing staff and expecting operations to somehow function seamlessly—but VA is not a tech start-up, and veterans are not an experiment. We will not allow reckless political games to undermine the care and benefits our veterans have earned.

We look forward to your prompt response.

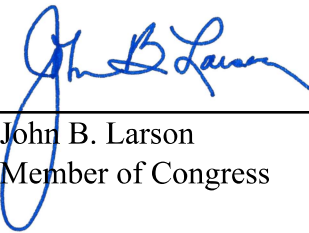
Sincerely,



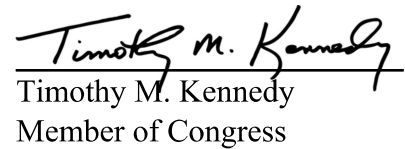
MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress



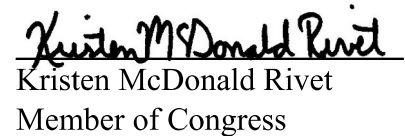
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



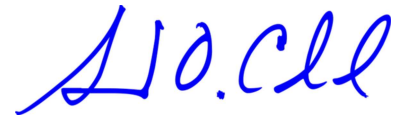
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



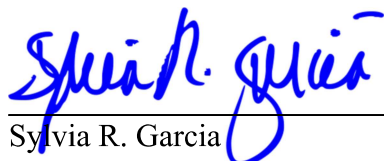
Kristen McDonald Rivet  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

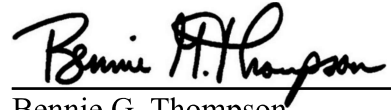


Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



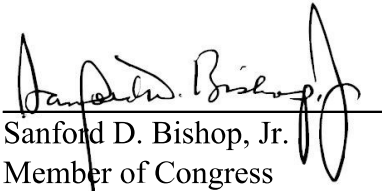
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Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



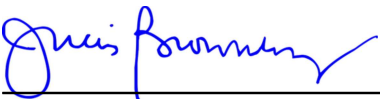
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Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



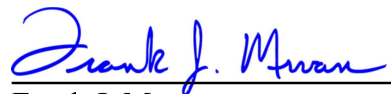
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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



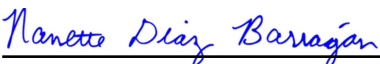
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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



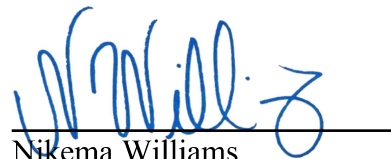
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Frank J. Mrvan  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



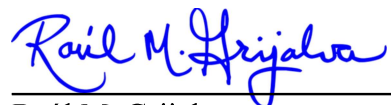
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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



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Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress

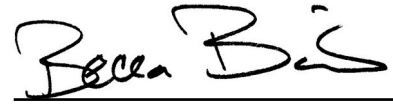


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Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



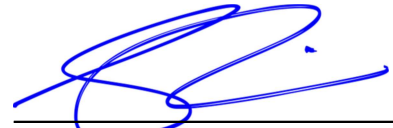
Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



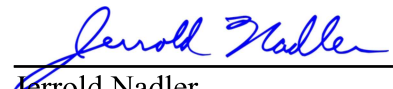
Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress  
Kansas Third District



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Terrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



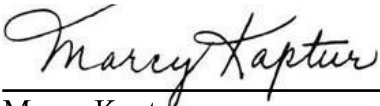
Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



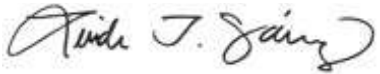
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



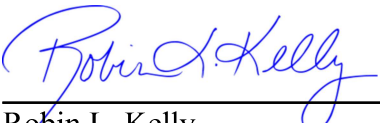
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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



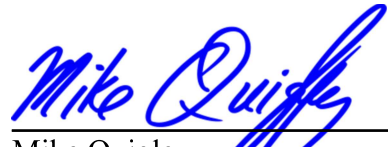
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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



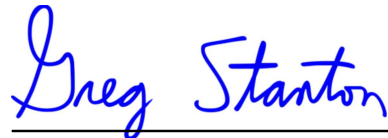
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



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Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



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Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



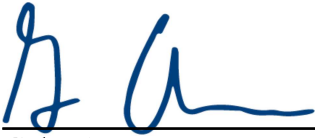
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



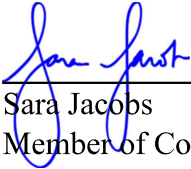
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Patrick Ryan  
Member of Congress



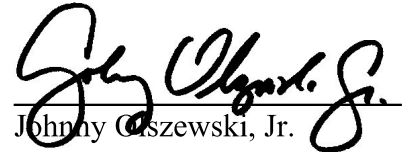
Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



Johnny Guszewski, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



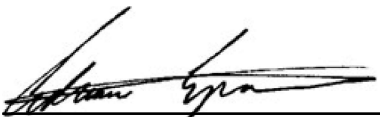
Sylvester Turner  
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



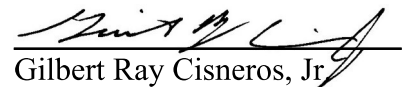
Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress




Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



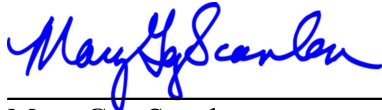
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress



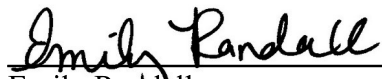
Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



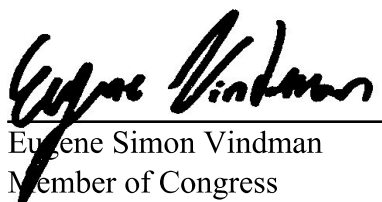
Emily Randall  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



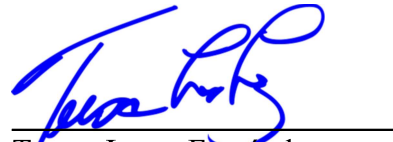
Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



Eugene Simon Vindman  
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernandez  
Member of Congress



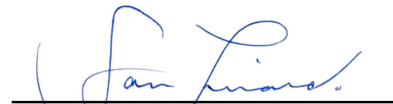
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



Sam T. Liccardo  
Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



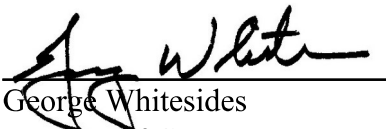
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



George Whitesides  
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress



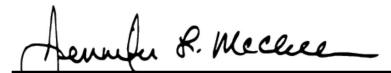
Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Mike Levin  
Member of Congress