



**THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON**

June 20, 2025

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your May 19, 2025, co-signed letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regarding VA's implementation of the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act (Dole Act), P.L. 118-210. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your inquiry.

My commitment to Veterans and VA is steadfast. Everything I do is in pursuit of ensuring Veterans receive the benefits and services they deserve and instilling a lasting culture of caring, customer service, and accountability at VA that focuses on always putting Veterans first. As such, VA is working toward full implementation of the Dole Act.

Under President Donald J. Trump, VA is providing Veterans with more health care choices than ever before. Now, we are making it even easier for Veterans to get their health care when and where its most convenient for them. We are putting Veterans first at the Department, and that means placing a premium on customer service and convenience. The implementation of the Dole Act will help VA in achieving that goal.

Of the 72 substantive sections, VA has fully implemented 9 sections and 23 subsections of the Dole Act. Fifty-eight sections are in the process of being implemented, and five are awaiting initiation due to external dependencies with other agencies such as the Department of Labor, the Department of Justice, and the Government Accountability Office. VA has encountered some challenges in implementing several of the sections, such as contract procurement timing, funding determinations, staffing and resourcing requirements, and implementation timelines due to complexities of process and procedural development. VA is working diligently to implement the Dole Act in accordance with the law.

In response to your request, VA has scheduled an additional implementation briefing planned for June 27, 2025, that will address your concerns.

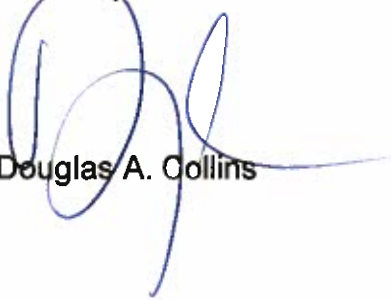
Our focus remains on ensuring that Veterans continue to receive the benefits and services they deserve without disruption. We appreciate your understanding and continued support during this time.

Page 2.

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal

Thank you for your continued support of the Nation's Veterans. Representative Takano has been sent a copy of this response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Douglas A. Collins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Douglas A. Collins

Cc: The Honorable Mark Takano