



**THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON**

June 20, 2025

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your April 2, 2025, co-signed letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) urging VA to request a waiver for the entire Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from President Donald J. Trump's March 27, 2025, executive order (EO), Exclusions from Federal Labor-Management Relations Programs. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter.

President Trump gave me simple instructions when he offered me the role of Secretary. He told me to take great care of Veterans. As such, everything I do is to ensure Veterans receive the care and services they deserve and instill a lasting culture of caring, customer service, and accountability at VA that always puts Veterans first.

However, this also means ensuring that the time, energy, and focus of VA employees is on the mission of helping Veterans and not on collective bargaining. I have looked closely at the issue. As a result, VA moved forward with the implementation of the President's EO with very limited exceptions.

I suspended the application of 1-402 or 1-404 of EO 12171, as amended, thereby bringing such employees under the coverage of the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations statute for the employees represented by the following:

1. Laborers International Union of North America;
2. Western Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals, Veterans Affairs Staff Nurse Council Local 5032 at the VA medical center Milwaukee, Wisconsin;
3. International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF-99) at the VA medical center, Little Rock, Arkansas;
4. United Nurses Association of California/Union of Healthcare Professionals at the VA Medical Center, Loma Linda, California;
5. Teamsters Union Local 115 at the VA medical center, Coatesville, Pennsylvania;

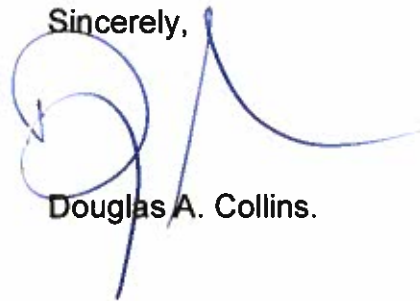
The Honorable Richard Blumenthal

6. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2168 at the VA medical center, Cheyenne, Wyoming; and
7. International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local 1998 at the VA National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii.

I look forward to taking care of the Nation's Veterans by making sure VA is in a situation where it is actually doing that, has the resources it needs, and creates the efficiencies it needs to best serve Veterans.

A courtesy copy of my response is being sent to the cosigners of your letter
Thank you for your continued support of the Nation's Veterans.

Sincerely,



Douglas A. Collins.

Cc: The Honorable Jerry Moran
The Honorable Mike Bost
The Honorable Mark Takano
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Delia C. Ramirez
The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch
The Honorable Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr.
The Honorable Nikki Budzinski
The Honorable Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
The Honorable Haley M. Stevens
The Honorable Shri Thanedar
The Honorable Donald Norcross
The Honorable Kristen McDonald Rivet
The Honorable Angie Craig
The Honorable Greg Casar
The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
The Honorable Jill Tokuda
The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver II
The Honorable Paul Tonko
The Honorable Joseph D. Morelle
The Honorable Glenn Ivey

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal

The Honorable Sarah McBride
The Honorable Herbert C. Conaway Jr.
The Honorable Brad Sherman
The Honorable Chrissy Houlahan
The Honorable Julie Johnson
The Honorable Gabe Amo
The Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan
The Honorable Ko Khanna
The Honorable Rashida Tlaib
The Honorable James P. McGovern
The Honorable Nikema Williams
The Honorable Andrea Salinas
The Honorable Jacky Rosen
The Honorable Derek T. Tran
The Honorable Robert Garcia
The Honorable Yassamin Ansari
The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
The Honorable George Whitesides
The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
The Honorable Tim Kaine
The Honorable Jack Reed
The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
The Honorable Mazie Hirono
The Honorable Judy Chu
The Honorable Seth Moulton
The Honorable Thomas R. Suozzi
The Honorable Kelly Morrison
The Honorable Chellie Pingree
The Honorable Terri A. Sewell
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
The Honorable Sylvia Garcia
The Honorable Steve Cohen
The Honorable Troy A. Carter
The Honorable Al Green
The Honorable Edward J. Markey
The Honorable Sean Casten
The Honorable Doris Matsui
The Honorable Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
The Honorable Lateefah Simon
The Honorable Richard Durbin
The Honorable Maxine Dexter
The Honorable Alex Padilla

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal

The Honorable Elissa Slotkin
The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
The Honorable Frederica Wilson
The Honorable Adam Schiff
The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
The Honorable Sydney Kamlager-Dove
The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán
The Honorable Chris Deluzio
The Honorable Salud Carbajal
The Honorable Timothy M. Kennedy
The Honorable Greg Landsman
The Honorable Morgan McGarvey
The Honorable Veronica Escobar
The Honorable Marc A. Veasey
The Honorable Brendan F. Boyle
The Honorable Val Hoyle
The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr.
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
The Honorable Bernard Sanders
The Honorable Laura Friedman
The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley
The Honorable Adam Smith
The Honorable William R. Keating
The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
The Honorable Richard E. Neal
The Honorable Lucy McBath
The Honorable Eric Swalwell
The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
The Honorable Betty McCollum
The Honorable Eugene Simon Vindman
The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez
The Honorable Robin L. Kelly
The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop Jr.
The Honorable Miki Sherill
The Honorable Julia Brownley
The Honorable Dwight Evans
The Honorable Jesús G. "Chuy" Garcia
The Honorable Dina Titus
The Honorable Greg Stanton
The Honorable Maggie Goodlander
The Honorable Mike Levin

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal

The Honorable Mary Gay Scanlon
The Honorable Josh Gottheimer
The Honorable Seth Magaziner
The Honorable Kevin Mullin
The Honorable La Monica McIver
The Honorable Diana DeGettee
The Honorable Angela Alsobrooks
The Honorable Gilbert Ray Cisneos Jr.
The Honorable Madeleine Dean
The Honorable Chris Pappas
The Honorable Mike Thompson
The Honorable André Carson
The Honorable Ron Wyden
The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi
The Honorable Norma J. Torres
The Honorable Cory A. Booker
The Honorable Kweisi Mfume
The Honorable Linda T. Sánchez
The Honorable Kathy Castor
The Honorable Ted W. Lieu
The Honorable Martin Heinrich
The Honorable Danny K. Davis
The Honorable Gary C. Peters