



**THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON**

January 13, 2026

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

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your December 12, 2025, correspondence regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) internal workforce data review. While we respect Congressional oversight, several assertions in your letter require clarification.

VA exists to care for America's Veterans. That mission guides every action we take. VA is not an immigration agency, nor does it engage in immigration enforcement. Our responsibility at VA is to deliver health care, benefits, and services to Veterans—and safeguard the systems and data that support that mission.

The workforce review at issue is not new, not extraordinary, and not ideological. It is a routine administrative action required under long-standing Federal law enacted by Congress and applied across the Federal Government (5 U.S.C. § 1103). These statutes require agencies to maintain accurate personnel records and comply with trusted workforce and security-vetting standards to protect sensitive Federal systems, including Veterans' data. VA is following those laws exactly as written (5 U.S.C. § 1103 and § 3301).

This effort does not alter Veterans' eligibility for care or benefits, nor does it divert resources from patient care. It is a compliance exercise. VA's priority is caring for Veterans, not employing individuals who are unlawfully present in the United States. Federal employment carries legal requirements, and VA will continue to enforce those requirements consistent with Federal law (5 U.S.C. § 3101). For non-citizens in the Nation legally, such as researchers mentioned in the article, nothing will change.

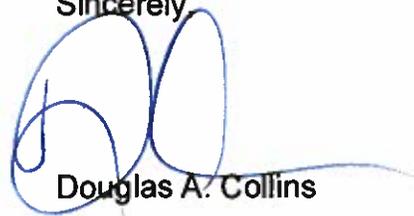
With respect to data sharing, VA is fully compliant with all applicable statutes, privacy protections, and interagency agreements governing information sharing among Federal Departments. Any data shared is done lawfully and for authorized purposes.

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America's Veterans deserve a VA that is focused, lawful, and unwavering in its mission. That is exactly what VA remains committed to delivering.

Sincerely,



Douglas A. Collins

Cc: The Honorable Jerry Moran
The Honorable Mike Bost
The Honorable Mark Takano
The Honorable Delia C. Ramirez
The Honorable Greg Casar
The Honorable Terri A. Sewell
The Honorable Yassamin Ansari
The Honorable Robert Garcia
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
The Honorable Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
The Honorable Veronica Escobar
The Honorable Sylvia R. Garcia
The Honorable Maxine Dexter
The Honorable Rashida Tlaib
The Honorable Pramila Jayapal
The Honorable Shri Thanedar
The Honorable Paul D. Tonko
The Honorable Sara Jacobs
The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman
The Honorable Chris Deluzio
The Honorable Dan Goldman
The Honorable Melanie Stansbury
The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez
The Honorable Becca Balint
The Honorable Ted W. Lieu
The Honorable Juan Vargas
The Honorable Adam Smith
The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
The Honorable Norma J. Torres
The Honorable Judy Chu
The Honorable Summer L. Lee
The Honorable Lloyd Doggett

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Cc: The Honorable Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
The Honorable Morgan McGarvey
The Honorable Nellie Pou
The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi
The Honorable Jamie Raskin
The Honorable Troy A. Carter, Sr.
The Honorable André Carson
The Honorable Joaquin Castro
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
The Honorable Seth Moulton
The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
The Honorable Sarah McBride
The Honorable Kelly Morrison
The Honorable Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
The Honorable Julia Brownley
The Honorable Timothy M. Kennedy
The Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
The Honorable Lauren Underwood
The Honorable Al Green
The Honorable Lateefah Simon
The Honorable Donald S. Beyer Jr.
The Honorable Diana DeGette
The Honorable Derrick Van Orden