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United States Senate

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July 3, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Collins,

Congress and this Administration should be working together to provide the best possible care, benefits and services for our nation's veterans and their families, and your failure to be transparent about your actions at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is wholly unacceptable. As you are aware, Congress has a constitutionally-mandated obligation of oversight over executive agencies. However, VA under your leadership has been historically secretive and partisan, and overtly adversarial to any attempts at such oversight.

Contrary to what Congress and the American public have come to expect, your communications lack timeliness, facts, and adequacy. Often you claim to have provided a response to letters or requests from Congress, but those responses routinely fail to provide adequate information or answer specific questions. Since your confirmation, the Department has also reduced or cancelled regular briefings on numerous topics, including homelessness, caregiver support and community care. And you have refused to allow members of Congress and staff to conduct roundtables and town halls at VA facilities to hear directly from employees and veterans about their concerns – violating years of precedent.

Beyond the Department's obstruction of Congress, VA has also denied basic Freedom of Information Act requests, insisted media outlets change evidence-based reporting without substantive proof to support those requests, and restricted Veteran Service Organizations' access to the Department if they raise legitimate questions about Department actions that could harm veterans and their families. This vindictive secrecy is unprecedented, and demonstrates your consistent unwillingness to allow anyone to hold you accountable for your actions.

Further, your implication that unconfirmed VA nominees are the reason for your lack of transparency is misleading and weak. Proper debate and regular order are necessary as part of any confirmation process. In fact, the broken commitments you made under oath at your confirmation hearing and throughout your confirmation process only reinforce the need for Congress to be as thorough as possible in the vetting of nominations. And throughout that process, we demand transparency and accountability from you prior to approving the nominees will who work for you.

To that end, we request you commit to the below timeliness and oversight parameters:

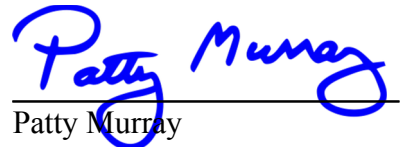
1. Allow Members of Congress and Congressional staff access to visit facilities of the Department and meet with staff of their choosing.
2. Approve and schedule all Congressional briefing requests and answer all Requests For Information within 45 calendar days.
3. Provide a sufficient response to Congressional letters to the Department within 60 calendar days.

This blatant obstruction of Congress, and lack of transparency and accountability to America's veterans and taxpayers must not continue.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on
Veterans' Affairs



Patty Murray
United States Senator