



**THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON**

March 24, 2025

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

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your February 6, 2025, co-signed letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regarding the Department of Government Efficiency's (DOGE) access to VA systems and Veterans' sensitive personal information. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

As established by the January 20, 2025, Executive Order 14158 "Establishing and Implementing the President's Department of Government Efficiency," DOGE's purpose is to modernize Federal technology and software to maximize governmental efficiency and productivity. DOGE is focused on streamlining operations, examining contracts, and improving management to meet its purpose. DOGE is not targeting or cutting health care or disability benefits. VA remains committed to providing Veterans with the health care and benefits they have earned and deserve.

VA has four employees who act as liaisons to DOGE, and they are working to streamline operations, improve management, and are also examining contracts. These four VA employees follow the same rigorous rules and standards as all VA employees. VA is committed to being transparent with Veterans and Congress, safeguarding Veterans' data, and maintaining compliance with rules and regulations regarding the handling of sensitive personal information. To be very clear: DOGE does not have access to Veterans' personal records.

Our commitment to Veterans, their families, and caregivers includes safeguarding their personal health information and maintaining compliance with all regulations and Federal statutes such as the Federal Information Security Modernization Act. VA will continue to diligently protect sensitive Department data such as investigative reports and VA employee records. For the four DOGE liaisons to the Department, they follow the same rigorous rules and standards and have the same access limits as any other VA employee.

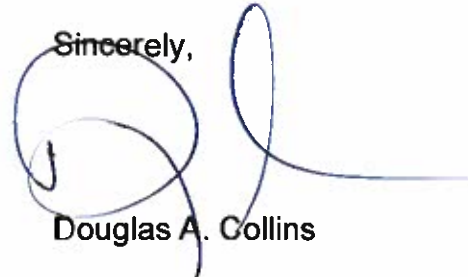
We will continue to put Veterans first, protect Veterans' and VA employees' personally identifiable information, and ensure the right people have the appropriate access to VA data, databases, and information technology systems.

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The Honorable Richard Blumenthal

Thank you for your continued support of our mission. The other signatories of your letter have received a courtesy copy of this response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Douglas A. Collins

Cc: The Honorable Angus S. King, Jr.
The Honorable Raphael Warnock
The Honorable Tim Kaine
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
The Honorable Edward J. Markey
The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley
The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
The Honorable Tina Smith
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
The Honorable Michael F. Bennet
The Honorable Bernard Sanders
The Honorable Jack Reed
The Honorable Ron Wyden
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
The Honorable Jacky Rosen
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
The Honorable Christopher S. Murphy
The Honorable Mark Kelly
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Mark R. Warner
The Honorable Martin Heinrich