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# United States Senate

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May 15, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Collins,

We write to request an extension of the pause in discharges for legacy caregivers enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) on or before September 30, 2020.

President Biden's Executive Order 14095, *Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers*, requested VA make appropriate modifications to the eligibility criteria for PCAFC. VA subsequently issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in December 2024, which included an extension of the pause in program discharges for Legacy caregivers. However, no information has been provided about how the current Administration plans to proceed with this rulemaking process, and we have serious concerns a failure to extend this pause will cause thousands of caregivers and veterans to lose life-changing benefits on September 30, 2025.

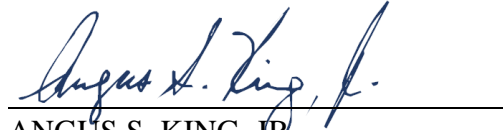
In addition, VA has not provided any information as to how the recent firings, resignations, cancellations of contracts and other Trump Administration actions have affected staffing for the Caregiver Support Program (CSP), including PCAFC. You have said your target is to cut staffing to Fiscal Year 2019 levels, however CSP program participation has more than doubled since that time, due to the MISSION Act expansion of PCAFC to veterans of all eras. In Fiscal Year 2024 alone, CSP served more than 86,000 caregivers, and expanded access to critical mental health care, respite care, bereavement and other services. If CSP staff are cut to your target levels, the program would simply not be able to maintain the current level of support provided. In fact, because VA recently cut hours for the Caregiver Support Line, access to that support has decreased because of the elimination of weekend availability and the curtailment of business hours and after-hours availability.

Since Congress enacted PCAFC in 2010, there have been considerable changes to the program, many of them resulting in caregivers and veterans being unjustifiably denied or discharged from the program. Given this history, VA must work to increase transparency and maintain sufficient staffing and funding levels for CSP, and ensure legacy caregivers are not kicked out of the program in September.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Richard Blumenthal", written over a horizontal line.

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Angus S. King, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Patty Murray", written over a horizontal line.

PATTY MURRAY  
United States Senator