

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. _____

Condemning the actions taken by President Trump and Elon Musk that are negatively impacting mental health care and suicide prevention for veterans, and calling for all mental health and suicide prevention efforts at the Department of Veterans Affairs to be fully staffed and resourced.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Condemning the actions taken by President Trump and Elon Musk that are negatively impacting mental health care and suicide prevention for veterans, and calling for all mental health and suicide prevention efforts at the Department of Veterans Affairs to be fully staffed and resourced.

Whereas, on February 13, 2025, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Doug Collins, announced the termination of 1,000 employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs (in this preamble referred to as the “Department”);

Whereas, on February 24, 2025, Secretary Collins terminated an additional 1,400 employees of the Department;

Whereas, on March 4, 2025, a memorandum from the Department announced the objective of the Department to return to 2019 end-strength staffing numbers;

Whereas reduction in force will result in approximately 83,000 additional employees terminated from employment with the Department;

Whereas returning to 2019 staffing levels could mean firing approximately 18,000 nurses, 10 percent of the police force of the Department, 10,000 schedulers, and 30 percent of the staff of the Veterans Benefits Administration;

Whereas the Department projects a 59 percent increase in inpatient and outpatient mental health care demand from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2032;

Whereas, even prior to such attacks on the workforce of the Department, the Department already suffered from critical mental health staffing shortages;

Whereas actions attacking and decimating the workforce of the Department will exacerbate such existing mental health staffing challenges and further jeopardize the mental health services veterans desperately need;

Whereas such actions are harming the trust of veterans in the Department and harming the ability of the Department to recruit and retain a mental health care workforce;

Whereas the mass terminations of employees of the Federal Government are damaging the mental health and economic security of veterans and their families; and

Whereas veterans and employees of the Department have expressed concerns regarding the effect of terminations and attacks on the mental health workforce already carried out by the Department, including—

(1) terminating employees of the Veterans Crisis Line established under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code;

(2) requiring employees of the Veterans Crisis Line to take calls in open cubicles intended for claims processors of the Veterans Benefits Administration;

(3) forcing mental health staff to conduct counseling sessions while in open cubicles;

(4) cutting or postponing suicide prevention training courses;

(5) terminating employees performing critical research at the Department on mental health and substance use disorders among veterans;

(6) cancelling employee assistance program and mental health support contracts for employees of the Department;

(7) terminating staff of Vet Centers (as defined in section 1712A(h) of title 38, United States Code); and

(8) an increase in call volume on the Veterans Crisis Line from veterans who were terminated from the Federal workforce, or who are concerned about losing their health care and benefits: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) actions taken by President Trump and Elon
3 Musk are negatively impacting mental health care
4 and suicide prevention for veterans and should be
5 condemned; and

6 (2) all mental health and suicide prevention ef-
7 forts at the Department of Veterans Affairs should
8 be fully staffed and resourced.