

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 23, 2025

The Honorable Douglas A. Collins  
Secretary  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Collins,

We are writing with concern regarding actions you have taken which severely and negatively impact the workforce of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Under your leadership, VA has lost 43,000 employees, including those who serve in veteran-facing and mission critical roles. Additionally, you recently made the decision to cut over 35,000 unfilled positions and have yet to explain how these cuts are being executed, which positions are affected, where they are located, and why this decision was made.<sup>1</sup> This action is deeply troubling, given the well-known and well-documented clinical staffing shortages VA faces.<sup>2</sup> To that end, we request detailed data regarding the VA workforce to assess the impact of attrition on veteran access to care and benefits in New Hampshire.

You have repeatedly stated that changes you are making at VA would not impact the delivery of care and benefits to veterans. However, the October issue of VA's Workforce Dashboard shows that, for FY 2025, the net losses for veteran-facing employees across VA were estimated at over 12,100. The current number of employee losses under your leadership include mission-essential jobs. Specifically, you have lost over: 3,002 registered nurses, 1,556 medical support assistants, 1,068 physicians, and 1,905 veteran claim examiners.

New Hampshire is home to the Manchester VA Medical Center, VA Clinics in Tilton, Conway, Littleton, and Somersworth, and is supported by the White River Junction VA Medical Center in Vermont. As proud representatives of the Granite State, we are requesting detailed information about the current workforce situation in these facilities so that we can assess the impact to the veterans we represent. Specifically, we ask for data on all employee departures from January 1, 2025, through December 23, 2025. This data should include:

- Occupation
- Job title
- Grade and step level

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<sup>1</sup> Kornfield, Meryl, Natanson, Hannah, and Rein, Lisa, "VA plans to abruptly eliminate tens of thousands of health care jobs". The Washington Post (December 13, 2025).


<sup>2</sup> Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General, "OIG Determination of Veterans Health Administration's Severe Occupational Staffing Shortages Fiscal Year 2025," [25-01135-196](#) (Washington, D.C.: Aug. 12, 2025).


- Veteran status
- Disability status
- Military spouse status
- Years in service at VA
- Facility/location
- Reason for departure
- Whether the employee was retirement-eligible
- Whether the employee participated in the Deferred Resignation Program (DRP)
- Whether the employee participated in Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA)
- Whether the employee was terminated
- Whether the employee resigned

We also request data on the “staffing baseline” and/or “workforce cap” for each occupation at these facilities and a list of all unencumbered positions that have been or will be removed from organizational charts, including data on the length of time that position has been vacant. Please provide data on any and all encumbered positions that have been, will be, or are being considered for realignment to a different function, office, specialty, and/or geographic location. This information is critical to understanding workforce trends and ensuring the needs of veterans in New Hampshire continue to be met.

We urge your prompt attention to this request and look forward to your detailed response by January 23, 2025.

Sincerely,

  
Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress

  
Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress