

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

March 11, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Collins:

We ask that you immediately reverse your planned cancellation of contracts that support the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) ability to carry out the benefits and health care delivery promised under the bipartisan *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act (PACT Act)* signed into law by President Biden. Specifically, if not reversed, the decision that you and Elon Musk's so-called Department of Government Efficiency ("DOGE") made to cancel the VA's PACT Act Enterprise Program Management Office contract will harm the implementation of life-saving care for the millions of veterans covered under the *PACT Act*. Impeding the implementation of this landmark law by terminating contracts and unlawfully firing program office staff as part of your unlawful mass terminations is an unacceptable betrayal of the sacrifice toxic-exposed veterans have made. We urge you to prevent any such impacts, promptly restore any terminated or descoped contracts, and provide clarity to Congress and our veterans on how you will ensure veterans continue to receive the health care and benefits they are entitled to under the law.

As you know, since the passage of the *PACT Act* in August 2022, more than 1.5 million *PACT Act* claims have been approved and more than 6 million total toxic exposure screenings have been provided, demonstrating the expansive number of affected veterans who may require *PACT Act*-related benefits and health care.¹ These veterans suffer from acute illnesses directly associated with their military service, including over 11 different forms of cancer and 12 other illnesses. Managing these conditions for millions of veterans is a complex process, which requires the necessary personnel and contractors to screen veterans, process claims, and carry out outreach to ensure every veteran is aware of and receiving their benefits. Oversight of this work is enabled in part by the public *PACT Act* Dashboard that provides information on the law's implementation status – and this critical tool must also be protected from being cut or downgraded. Your confusing announcement on March 3rd that 585 contracts would be cancelled -- without providing information on which -- has created more chaos and confusion as has the

¹ VA PACT Act Performance Dashboard, Issue Forty-Six, February 21, 2025.

https://department.va.gov/pactdata/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2025/02/VA-PACT-Act-Dashboard-Issue-46-022125_Final_508.pdf

list of cancelled VA contracts listed on DOGE.gov. We demand you immediately provide Congress with a list of the 585 contracts you are terminating as well as a confirmation of the contracts on DOGE.gov that have been terminated.

In your testimony before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, you stated that "... [the Trump Administration] will not balance budgets on the back of veterans benefits," and that you yourself understand burn pits because of your own service in Iraq.² Carrying out such arbitrary cuts and contract cancellations under the excuse of eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse is exactly the form of cynical action that prioritizes talking points about wasteful government spending rather than helping the veterans who have honorably served the American people. Further, cutting contractors who support, and coordinate *PACT Act* implementation only complicates the bureaucratic process and creates a greater burden for veterans and their families, who should not be forced to navigate a complex system on their own.

Any actions to hamstring implementation of the *PACT Act* – which passed with overwhelming bipartisan support – betrays our veterans and fully disregards congressional intent. We ask that you take immediate action to protect and preserve all relevant programs, employees, and contractors in support of *PACT Act* implementation and ensure they remain unharmed by any further plans by you and DOGE. We demand that you not stand in the way of the committed career VA employees and stakeholders who are working to ensure that all veterans who are eligible will continue to receive timely and high-quality health care under the *PACT Act*.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

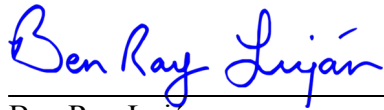


Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

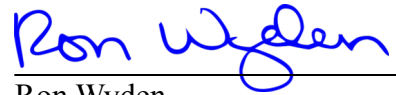


Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

² <https://www.veterans.senate.gov/2025/1/nomination-of-the-honorable-douglas-a-collins-to-be-secretary-of-veterans-affairs>



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



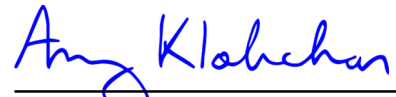
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



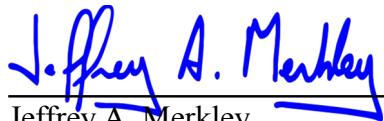
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



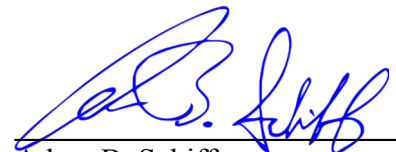
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Adam B. Schiff
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Peter Welch
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Cory A. Booker
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Alex Padilla
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