

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

September 16, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Collins:

We write to request information about the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) staffing in Rhode Island, as well as the ability of our constituents to access care and benefits, following the steep nationwide reduction in the VA workforce.

According to the July issue of VA's Workforce Dashboard, the net losses of Veteran-facing VA employees for this fiscal year are estimated at over 8,700. These losses include over 2,129 registered nurses, 1,283 medical support assistants, 751 physicians, and 1,294 Veteran claim examiners.¹ This is a significant loss compared to the Biden administration, which *added* over 8,700 employees during the same period in Fiscal Year 2024.²

We are alarmed that your actions as Secretary to drastically reduce the VA workforce have negative repercussions for employee morale and future recruitment. Your recent decision to terminate collective bargaining agreements for VA employees will almost certainly make the problem worse, as approximately 80% of VA employees belonged to a union.³ VA employees are essential to serving our Veterans. The alarming rate at which employees are leaving VA jeopardizes Veterans' ability to timely access services and benefits they have earned and will undermine the VA's ability to meet its mission for many years.

In order to assess the impact on our constituents, we request a more detailed understanding of the current VA workforce in Rhode Island. Specifically, we request data on all employee departures from January 1, 2025, through September 16, 2025, within the State of Rhode Island, including at the Eagle Square VA Clinic, Eagle Street VA Clinic, Providence VA Medical Center, Middletown VA Clinic, Providence VA Regional Benefit Office, and Providence Vet Center. The data should include:

- Occupation
- Job title
- Grade and step level
- Veteran status

¹ VA Workforce Dashboard, Issue 27 (July 25, 2025), <https://www.va.gov/EMPLOYEE/docs/workforce/VA-Workforce-Dashboard-Issue-27.pdf>

² VA Workforce Dashboard, Issue 15 (July 26, 2024), <https://www.va.gov/EMPLOYEE/docs/workforce/VA-Workforce-Dashboard-Issue-15.pdf>

³ <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/veterans-healthcare/2025/august/va-ends-contracts-for-most-of-its-unionized-employees>

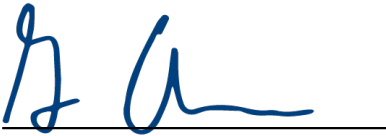
- Disability status
- Military spouse status
- Years in service at VA
- Facility/location
- Reason for departure
- Whether the employee was retirement-eligible
- Whether the employee participated in the Deferred Resignation Program (DRP)
- Whether the employee was terminated
- Whether the employee resigned

We also request detailed data on the number and type of Veteran appointments cancelled or rescheduled due to staffing shortages at Eagle Square VA Clinic, Eagle Street VA Clinic, Providence VA Medical Center, Middletown VA Clinic, Providence VA Regional Benefit Office, and Providence Vet Center since January 1, 2025.

Finally, we ask that you provide a list of any open positions the Department is seeking to fill in Rhode Island and how long those positions have been open.

This information is critical to understanding workforce trends and ensuring the needs of Veterans in Rhode Island continue to be met. We look forward to your detailed response by September 30, 2025.

Sincerely,



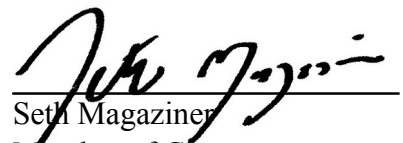
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Seth Magaziner
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