

Eugene Vindman
7th District, Virginia

House Armed Services Committee

Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies,
and Innovation

Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces

House Committee on Agriculture

Subcommittee on
Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology

Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and
Rural Development



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October 17, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Collins,

I am writing to follow up on my October 6, 2025, letter regarding the severe staffing shortages at the Fredericksburg Health Care Center. In that correspondence, I urged the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to take immediate steps to address the unacceptable delays and lack of access to care faced by veterans in my district.

As of today, my office has not received a substantive response to the questions outlined in my earlier letter. I understand your office has indicated that you cannot respond during a government shutdown. However, this rationale is unconvincing. Members of Congress and their staffs continue to serve their constituents during a shutdown, and political appointees at the VA remain on duty. Given that veterans' health care is an urgent and life-impacting matter, your office has both the ability and the responsibility to work with Congress for the benefit of America's heroes.

While your agency refuses to act, veterans and their families continue to encounter long wait times, difficulty accessing specialized services, and the burden of being forced into the already strained private health care system. These conditions not only undermine the VA's mission but also jeopardize the health and well-being of those who served our nation. Given the urgency of this matter, I reiterate the questions previously posed:

1. What specific steps will you take to expedite hiring at the Fredericksburg Health Care Center?
2. Do you believe it is acceptable for veterans to wait up to two years to receive full and adequate care?
3. What criteria is the administration using to determine which positions are subject to layoffs, and what safeguards are in place to ensure veterans' care is not compromised?

4. Has the VA conducted an assessment of the potential effects that staffing reductions will have on wait times and the overall quality of care? If so, what were the findings?
5. What steps is the VA taking to ensure that rural and underserved veterans, like many in my district, are not disproportionately affected by these workforce reductions?
6. What could be more important than working to ensure veterans have access to the services they earned?

Our veterans cannot afford further delay. I strongly urge the Department to provide clear answers and a definitive plan of action no later than October 24, 2025. My office stands ready to work with you in any constructive capacity to ensure that staffing shortages are addressed swiftly and comprehensively.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eugene Vindman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eugene Vindman
Member of Congress