

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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VINDMAN.HOUSE.GOV

October 6, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Collins,

I am writing to urge you to take quick, decisive action to address the severe staffing shortages at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Fredericksburg Health Care Center. The number one complaint I hear from veterans in my district is that this facility, despite being modern and well-equipped, remains dramatically understaffed. At present, the Fredericksburg VA Center feels more like a ghost town than a medical center designed to provide timely, high-quality care to those who have served our country.

As you and I both know, our nation owes a debt of gratitude to the men and women who were willing to lay down their lives for our freedoms. In return for their commitment to us, we promised to provide them with needed medical care upon completion of their service. The Department of Veterans Affairs is breaking that promise.

In an effort to help my constituents, I asked you to commit to immediate action to address the staffing shortage at the Fredericksburg medical facility. Instead, your response outlined a phased hiring plan that stretches over several years. That drawn-out timeline is unacceptable. Every month of delay leaves Virginia's veterans without the timely, comprehensive care they have earned through their service.

Because veterans in my district are not receiving the care they were promised, they are being forced into an already overstretched private healthcare market. For example, one of my constituents, a disabled veteran seeking surgery and physical therapy through the community care system, has faced repeated delays and worsening health due to administrative issues and long waits. This directly violates the VA's commitment to "timely and quality care" for veterans. In fact, this constituent even totaled his car in an accident while commuting to Richmond for care that should be available to him at the Fredericksburg facility.

I urge you to remember that caring for veterans is not a partisan issue. It is a solemn promise this country owes to its warriors. Please work with me to uphold this promise and ensure our facilities are fully staffed, and America's veterans have access to the timely, high-quality care they deserve. In the spirit of working with you towards these ends I ask that you please respond to the following questions:

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?

I appreciate your prompt attention to this urgent matter and look forward to receiving a response by Monday, October 13th, 2025.

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