

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 20, 2025

The Honorable Douglas A. Collins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Collins,

We are writing to express our concerns with recent terminations of employment at Nevada's Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities, including all affected employees and the proportion of those employees who are veterans. The VA plays a critical role in ensuring that our nation's veterans receive the care, benefits, and support they have earned through sacrifice. A significant reduction in staff could have serious consequences for both VA operations and our veterans in Nevada.

We are also concerned with the termination of veteran employees within the Nevada VA system. Veterans comprise a significant portion of the VA workforce both in our state and nationwide bringing firsthand knowledge and experience that directly enhance the effectiveness of the department's mission. These individuals understand the challenges faced by those who have served, allowing them to provide critical support in navigating healthcare, benefits, and other essential services. The removal of employees from the VA not only disrupts their own livelihoods but also diminishes the quality of services available to millions of former service members.

Nevada is home to nearly 220,000 veterans who depend on VA facilities in Las Vegas, Reno, and rural communities across the state to receive the critical benefits they have earned through their service. These terminations could further strain an already overburdened system, leading to increased wait times for medical care, delays in processing disability claims, and disruptions in the delivery of essential support services. The Nevada VA system cannot afford to lose trained professionals at a time when veterans are already facing critical challenges such as homelessness, mental health crises, and barriers to accessing timely care.

Furthermore, the loss of veteran employees from the VA is especially concerning given the well-documented difficulties many veterans face after their military service. The VA has long served as an important source of employment for those who have sacrificed for this country, offering them a structured and mission-driven career path. Many of these employees have service-connected disabilities or other conditions that make VA employment particularly vital to their financial and personal stability. Any significant reduction in the number of veterans employed by the VA risks worsening unemployment rates among former service members and may contribute to broader issues such as homelessness and economic instability within the veteran community.

In light of these concerns, we request the following information in order to fully understand the impact of these terminations to our community:

- The total number of Veterans Affairs employees, located in Nevada, who have been terminated.
- The number of these employees who were veterans.
- The number of these employees who are veterans with service-connected disabilities.
- The number of employees who were terminated as probationary employees, but who had many years at VA in a different position.
- A description of the position and responsibilities of each terminated employee.
- A detailed explanation of the rationale behind these terminations, including any financial, policy, or strategic considerations.
- Any assessments or analyses conducted to evaluate the potential impact of these terminations on VA services.
- Any measures being taken to mitigate the consequences of these terminations, particularly concerning veteran employees and the delivery of essential services.

The termination of employees at the VA is a matter of national concern, and transparency is imperative to ensure that these decisions do not undermine the VA's core mission. We look forward to your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator