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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

VICE RANKING MEMBER,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
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COMMODITIES, RISK MANAGEMENT,
AND CREDIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND FOREIGN
AGRICULTURE

**COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND ACCOUNTABILITY**
RANKING MEMBER,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY, INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY, AND GOVERNMENT INNOVATION

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND THE
CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY**

January 6, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Collins:

I am writing with concern regarding actions you have taken which are severely and negatively impacting the workforce of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Under your leadership, VA has lost 43,000 employees, including those who serve in veteran-facing and mission critical roles. Additionally, you recently made the decision to cut over 35,000 unfilled positions and have yet to explain how these cuts are being executed, which positions are affected, where they are located, and why this decision was made.¹ This action is deeply troubling, given the well-known and well-documented clinical staffing shortages VA faces.² To that end, I request detailed data regarding the VA workforce to assess the impact of attrition on veteran access to care and benefits in Ohio's 11th Congressional District.

You have repeatedly stated that changes you are making at VA would not impact the delivery of care and benefits to veterans. However, the October issue of VA's Workforce Dashboard shows that, for FY 2025, the net losses for veteran-facing employees across VA were estimated at over 12,100. This is a stark number compared to the Biden Administration, which *added* a net 8,800 employees during FY 2024.³ The current number of employee losses under your leadership includes mission-essential jobs. Specifically, you have lost over: 3,002 registered nurses, 1,556 medical support assistants, 1,068 physicians, and 1,905 veteran claim examiners.

As the Representative from Ohio's 11th Congressional District, which is home to the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the broader VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System, I am requesting detailed information about the current workforce situation in my district so that I can assess the impact to the veterans I represent. Specifically, I ask for data on all employee departures from January 1, 2025, through January 6, 2026, within the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System.

¹ Kornfield, Meryl, Natanson, Hannah, and Rein, Lisa, "VA plans to abruptly eliminate tens of thousands of health care jobs". The Washington Post (December 13, 2025).

² Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General, "OIG Determination of Veterans Health Administration's Severe Occupational Staffing Shortages Fiscal Year 2025," [25-01135-196](#) (Washington, D.C.: Aug. 12, 2025).

³ VA Workforce Dashboard, Issue 30 (October 31, 2025), <https://www.va.gov/EMPLOYEE/docs/workforce/VAWorkforce-Dashboard-Issue-30.pdf>

The data should include:

- Occupation
- Job title
- Grade and step level
- Veteran status
- 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 participated in Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA)
- Whether the employee was terminated
- Whether the employee resigned

I also request detailed data on the number and type of veteran appointments cancelled or rescheduled due to staffing shortages at the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System since January 1, 2025.

Further, please provide detailed data on the “staffing baseline” and/or “workforce cap” for each occupation at Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and across the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System and a list of all unencumbered positions at the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and across the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System that have been or will be removed from organizational charts, including data on the length of time that position has been vacant. Please also provide data on any and all encumbered positions that have been, will be, or are being considered for realignment to a different function, office, specialty, and/or geographic location. This information is critical to understanding workforce trends and ensuring the needs of veterans in Ohio’s 11th Congressional District continue to be met.

I urge your prompt attention to this request and look forward to your detailed response by February 6, 2026.

Sincerely,



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress (OH-11)

CC: Jill Dietrich Mellon JD, MBA, FACHE
Executive Director/CEO
VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System