



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0917

December 14, 2023

The Honorable Denis McDonough
Secretary
United States Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough,

We write with deep concern about a troubling media report¹ regarding the diversion of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) resources to address government services for illegal immigrants in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

According to the report, ICE contracted with the VA's Financial Services Center in order to process medical claims submitted by private medical providers caring for illegal immigrants in ICE custody. Considering the overwhelming number of illegal immigrants streaming across the border in recent years, we are disturbed that American veterans may receive diminished services from the VA due to the Biden Administration's reckless unwillingness to secure the border.

The VA exists to serve American veterans who risked their lives to protect our great country. For far too long, the VA has fallen short in its mission "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors." Veterans have experienced unacceptable wait times in receiving medical care and disability benefits. In particular, the VA's disability claim backlog has been a source of significant frustration in the veteran community. After several years under the Trump Administration in which the VA disability claims backlog was consistently under 100,000 claims, the backlog has more than tripled to 318,221 as of December 2, 2023². The backlog of disability claims is but one of many examples in which the VA has failed to repay the debt we owe to our veterans.

Congress appropriates funds to the VA in order to provide services to our veterans, not illegal immigrants. Our veterans served our country, and it is high time that our government start serving them. With this in mind, please provide answers to the following questions by December 27, 2023.

¹ <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/vas-role-migrant-medical-care-draws-scrutiny-advocates-border-crisis-intensifies>

² https://www.benefits.va.gov/reports/mmwr_va_claims_backlog.asp

1. How many claims has the VA Financial Services Center processed for ICE on a monthly basis since January 2021?
2. Are claims submitted for care provided to VA beneficiaries processed before any other claims serviced by the VA?
3. How many hours have VA personnel spent processing medical claims on behalf of ICE?
4. Is the VA providing any other services to federal agencies involving illegal immigrants?

Sincerely,



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Warren Davidson
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



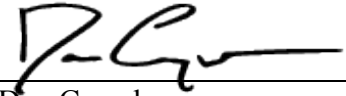
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



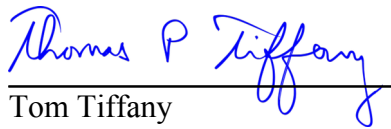
Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw
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Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



Pat Fallon
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Aaron Bean
Member of Congress



Troy E. Nehls
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Brian Babin, D.D.S.
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Christopher H. Smith
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John Rose
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Randy K. Weber, Sr.
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Scott Perry
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Pete Stauber
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Marjorie Taylor Greene
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Clay Higgins
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