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February 18, 2025

The Honorable Doug Collins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Collins:

One of the reasons I voted for you to become Secretary of Veterans Affairs was your promise to protect the needs of veterans and oppose the privatization of the VA. And then, in your first few weeks on the job, you lay off over 1,000 VA employees at a department that is already understaffed. There is no way that these layoffs will not negatively impact the veterans of our country in terms of the health care and benefits they receive.

I am writing to demand that you rescind these layoffs and restore these workers, many of whom are themselves veterans, to their jobs.

In defending these layoffs, the VA states that, "The personnel moves will save the department more than \$98 million per year." As I am sure you are aware, the Trump administration is proposing to provide the wealthiest people in this country with over \$1 trillion in tax breaks. In other words, you are sacrificing the needs of veterans, who put their lives on the line to defend our country, in order to make billionaires even richer. That is unacceptable.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator