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364 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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June 25, 2025

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

For months, my colleagues and I in both the House and Senate have requested information from you regarding Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) operations at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and information security at the agency. Your responses to our requests range from non-existent to inadequate. Staff briefing requests have been outright denied with no explanation. In response to inquiries related to contract terminations initiated by DOGE, you provided a document riddled with inaccuracies and errors.

On May 22, 2025, I submitted Questions for the Record as follow-up to your budget hearing testimony before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on May 15, 2025. As of today, those questions remain unanswered. Yesterday you testified before the Senate Appropriations Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee. You refused to directly answer Ranking Member Ossoff's questions regarding whether DOGE liaisons working at VA have accessed VA patient medical records.

Your lack of candor and transparency to Congress is troubling. VA is required by the Privacy Act, the Federal Information Security Modernization Act, the E-Government Act of 2002, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and several other laws to protect veteran private health information. It is your job to ensure veteran privacy is being maintained at VA. Your inability to answer simple questions about who is accessing veterans' private health records and why is an affront to the millions of veterans who use VA healthcare. Veterans deserve transparency and you are **required by law** to provide it.

Due to your continued and repeated evasiveness and failure to respond to Congressional oversight requests pertaining to DOGE, I write to request **immediate** answers to the following:

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1. Have DOGE liaisons accessed VA patient medical records? If so, for what purposes have DOGE liaisons accessed these records? Were veterans given notice that their records would be accessed by DOGE liaisons? Please share all documents and memorandum related to DOGE's need to access VA patient medical records.
2. Please provide dates of employment, position information, qualifications for performing their assigned duties within the Department, and state each of the VA information systems the following individuals are or were authorized to access:
 - a. Justin Fulcher
 - b. Sahil Lavingia
 - c. Christopher Roussos
 - d. Payton Rehling
 - e. Cary Volpert
 - f. Jon Koval
 - g. Any other individual detailed from or otherwise connected to the Department of Government Efficiency or the U.S. Digital Service (USDS)
2. Has any person installed or otherwise introduced an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool called OpenHands within the VA enclave or any system of the Department?
3. Has any code written by OpenHands, or any other AI, been added to any VA applications or software?
4. Has any application or system that containing AI written code experienced an outage or downtime? If so, provide the date of the outage, time to identify the problem, the AI tool or code that caused the outage, when the issue was repaired, and if the AI tool or code was removed from the VA enclave?
5. How many system outages have VA experienced since January 1, 2025? Please specify the following: Date of outage, system affected, length of outage, identified reason(s) for outage?
6. Has VA installed any spyware or bossware, to include, but not limited to, keystroke logging, document access tracking, screen monitoring, and voice recording software, on its systems since January 20, 2025? Please specify the following: brand name of software, purpose, date installed.

I ask that you provide **specific** and **detailed** information in response to the questions above no later than close of business tomorrow June 26, 2025. Thank you for your attention to this request.

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Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Ally Cimino, Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations, at Ally.Cimino@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Takano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Takano
Ranking Member