

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

364 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

January 28, 2025

Mr. Todd Hunter
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Mr. Hunter:

On the evening of January 27, 2025, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a memorandum requiring each agency to review and pause all federal financial assistance by 5 p.m. today, January 28, 2025. I am appalled that the Trump Administration would so brazenly attack and undermine the organizations and programs that provide essential services in every community in America to further its extreme agenda to roll back the civil rights our veterans fought to defend. This reckless order could decimate thousands of organizations and leave our communities without the services they need. All Americans will suffer, including veterans and their families who have already sacrificed so much for our nation.

From pausing research on cures for cancer, to closing homeless shelters, halting food assistance, reducing safety from domestic violence, and shutting down suicide hotlines, the impact of even a brief pause in funding could be devastating and cost veterans' lives.

VA made tremendous strides and reduced veteran homelessness significantly during the Biden-Harris Administration, and I fear those gains will disappear and we will find more veterans facing housing insecurity due to the immediate impact shuttering funding for programs like VA Grant and Per Diem, Supportive Services for Veterans Families, and Health Care for Homeless Veterans will have on providers and their ability to serve veterans. These services keep our communities safe.

VA also administers grants to reduce veteran suicide, promote research for the complex injuries sustained from military service, and ensure care for aging veterans in state veterans homes. Payment for these essential services ends today at 5 pm. Veterans will suffer.

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The breadth of VA-administered programs that will be implicated by this funding freeze is unclear from the OMB guidance. Will G.I. Bill benefits for student veterans, compensation and pension benefits for disabled veterans, dependency & indemnity compensation, and burial benefits be suspended? What is clear is that the Trump Administration either did not consider or, more likely, just does not care about the downstream consequences these brash and cruel mandates will have on the lives of everyday Americans and veterans.

I ask that you produce the list of all VA federal financial assistance programs and supporting activities that are paused to the Committee by close of business on January 30, 2025, including an accounting of every dollar of funding that is withheld during the period of the freeze. Please also provide a list of all paused Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs).

Due to the immediate and devastating consequences this funding freeze will have on all Americans in communities across the country, we ask that you provide a briefing to Committee staff no later than **February 4, 2025**. Should you have any questions about this request, you may contact Ms. Ally Cimino (Ally.Cimino@mail.house.gov) with the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. Thank you for your review and response to these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Takano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being more prominent and the last name "Takano" written in a continuous script.

Mark Takano
Ranking Member
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Cc: The Honorable Mike Bost, Chairman