

October 22, 2025

Secretary Doug Collins
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington, DC 20571

Dear Secretary Collins:

Thank you for all that you have done to support our nation's veterans and to ensure they receive the care and benefits that they deserve.

As you know, Section 142 of the *Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act* (the Dole Act) allows the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue waivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) physician pay limitations that are "necessary for the recruitment or retention of critical health care personnel." The government has often struggled to provide competitive salaries to attract talent in high-paying fields such as healthcare. These waivers from the Dole Act will help entice highly skilled physicians to leave lucrative positions in the private sector to serve our nation's veterans and meet their unique healthcare needs.

Unfortunately, this important section of the Dole Act cannot take effect before implementing regulations are issued by the VA. Until then, VA medical centers across the country – including the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio – will be hampered in their ability to recruit and retain the world-class physicians that our veterans deserve. We fear that a continued delay in issuing these regulations will lead to gradual attrition of VA healthcare providers and undermine the quality of care that our veterans receive.

As such, we urge you to issue the necessary regulations to implement Section 142 of the Dole Act as soon as possible. The waivers authorized under this provision will give your department the ability to not just stem the flow of physician departures from VA medical centers, but also to *reverse* that flow by attracting high-quality physicians from the private sector that want to answer the call to care for America's veterans.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Jon Husted
United States Senator



Max L. Miller
Member of Congress