

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 6, 2017

Dear Secretaries, Administrators, Directors and Commissioners:

Thank you for your service to our nation. As our country grapples with ever-increasing debt and the fiscal reality of needing to do more with less, promoting government efficiency is imperative. Over the past several years, one need not look further than the Department of Veterans Affairs to find numerous instances of waste, fraud, and malfeasance. These range from instances of staff intoxication during surgery to improper bonuses awarded to senior employees -- all while our veterans suffered from lengthy wait times for medical appointments and benefit appeals claims.

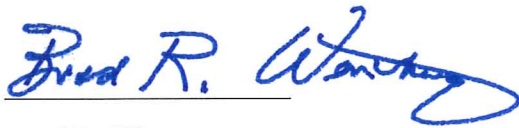
Recently, however, Congress granted VA Secretary David Shulkin the flexibility to promote greater accountability and efficiency for all levels of VA employees. Specifically, these new authorities include the ability to swiftly remove underperforming VA employees, recoup bonuses and other benefits provided to employees engaging in waste, fraud, or abuse, while expanding whistleblower protections for VA employees with the establishment of a new Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection. By signing this legislation, known as the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-41) into law, we appreciate President Trump's support in working with Congress to make bold reforms to existing operational processes at a currently-beleaguered federal agency.

We write you today to solicit your input on whether the new authorities extended to Secretary Shulkin would be beneficial towards increasing the efficiency, effectiveness, and performance of your departments/agencies.

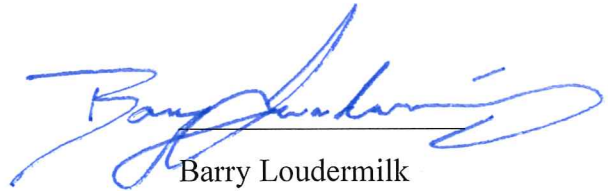
- Would the extension of these authorities to your department/agency be beneficial to operational efficiency, morale, and employee accountability?
- What recommendations do you have to improve or expand these authorities?

We appreciate your consideration of this request, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

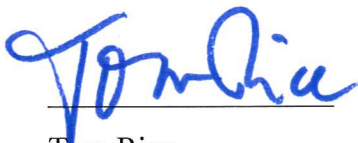
Sincerely,



Brad R. Wenstrup
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Tom Rice
Member of Congress



Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress



John Rutherford
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



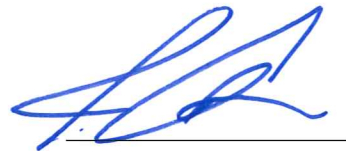
Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



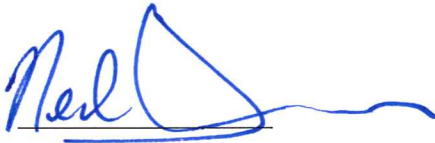
John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress



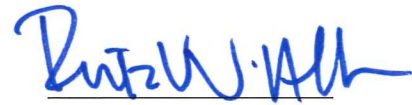
Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



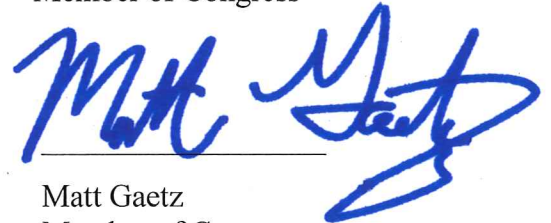
Neal Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



Mike Bishop
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



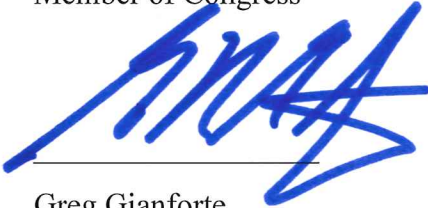
Warren Davidson
Member of Congress



Rod Blum
Member of Congress



Mark Walker
Member of Congress



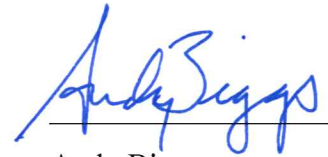
Greg Gianforte
Member of Congress



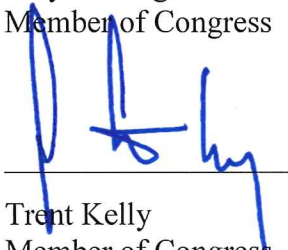
Dave Brat
Member of Congress



Trey Hollingsworth
Member of Congress



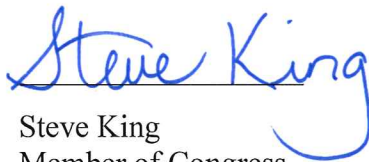
Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



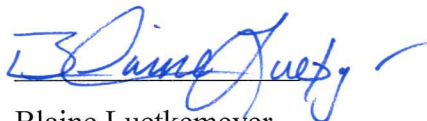
Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



Mark Sanford
Member of Congress



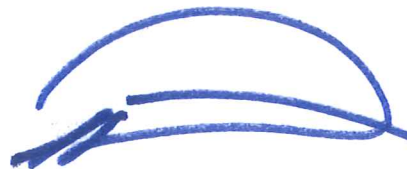
Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



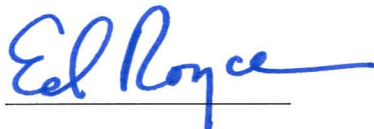
Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



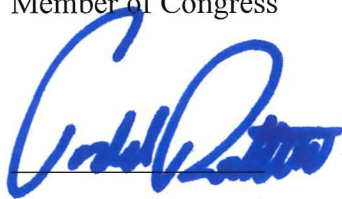
Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress



Ed Royce
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Todd Rokita
Member of Congress



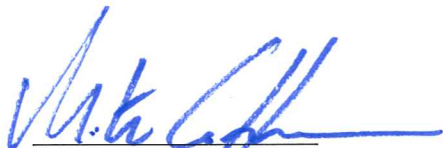
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

CC: All Federal Executive and Independent Agencies