

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 17, 2026

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We write to express our grave concern regarding recent Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) directives that dismantle essential support systems for LGBTQ+ veterans. Specifically, the decisions to eliminate dedicated LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator positions, terminate specialized support networks, and restrict tailored healthcare resources undermine our solemn obligation to provide world-class, inclusive care to every American who has worn the uniform. I strongly urge you to reverse these directives immediately and fully restore the VA's LGBTQ+ care infrastructure.

An estimated one million LGBTQ+ individuals have served or are currently serving in our nation's military. Many of these veterans served in silence during eras of overt discrimination, including under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and historically faced significant barriers and stigma when seeking care after their service.

The establishment of LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinators across VA medical centers was a vital, evidence-based step toward overcoming these historic barriers. These specialized coordinators ensure that veterans receive culturally competent care, navigate complex health systems safely, and find a welcoming environment in facilities designed to serve them. Stripping away these dedicated roles and support networks creates confusion, fosters fear of discrimination, and risks driving vulnerable veterans away from critical medical and mental health services, at a time when minority veterans already face heightened risks of severe mental health challenges and suicide.

Providing high-quality healthcare to those who sacrificed for our freedom is not a political issue; it is a fundamental duty. When men and women raise their right hand to defend our democracy, the military does not ask about their sexual orientation or gender identity before placing them in harm's way. Any efforts to deny the LGBTQ community access to basic health care resources and services, based solely on their sexual orientation and gender identity, is harmful and in direct conflict with the mission and promise of the Department of the VA to care for those who have served in our nation's military.

We request that you immediately take the following actions:

1. Re-establish dedicated LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator positions across all VA Health Care Systems with clear guidance to maintain specialized support services.
2. Rescind directives that prohibit or restrict internal and external support groups, staff training, and specialized care programs for LGBTQ+ veterans.

3. Provide a detailed response outlining the specific steps that will be taken to ensure there veterans have access to the LGBTQ+ veteran support networks.

Our heroes earned their care through courage, duty, and sacrifice. We owe them nothing less than our unwavering commitment to their health, well-being, and dignity. We look forward to your prompt response detailing the steps the VA will take to restore these vital support networks.

Sincerely,



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress