

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

9/15/2014

Robert McDonald  
Secretary  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonald:

We write to respectfully urge you to do everything within your power to expedite the rulemaking and implementation of Section 101 of the Veteran's Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014.

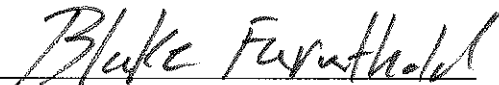
We understand that the law provides up to 90 days for this process, but given the emergency situation so many of our veterans are facing, it is imperative that the VA not take a day longer than necessary to ensure that the rules serve the intent of the legislation. Every day that access to private care remains limited could mean the difference between life and death.

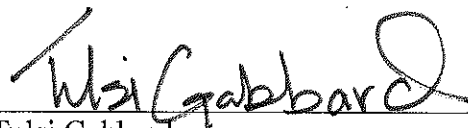
Recent reports estimate that approximately 10 percent of our veterans face a greater-than-30-day delay in obtaining an appointment. In addition, the VA estimates that roughly 500,000 veterans would fall into the Veteran's Access, Choice, and Accountability Act's qualification for private care based upon distance from a clinic. Taken together, this means that a potential 1.1 million veterans are waiting on your rulemaking process – and that doesn't factor in those veterans who have had their wait times misreported.

This is an opportunity for the VA to turn away from the bureaucratic slow-down that has plagued veterans' care for far too long. We must work together to meet the needs of the men and women who have sacrificed so much and show that honoring our promises to those who serve is truly a national priority.


We look forward to your response and thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Blake Farenthold  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Brooks  
Member of Congress

  
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Bradley Byrne  
Member of Congress

*Rodney Davis*

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

*Bob Latta*

Bob Latta  
Member of Congress

*Cynthia Lummis*

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*Markwayne Mullin*

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*Kristi Noem*

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*Erik Paulsen*

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*Martha Roby*

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*Karon Schock*

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*Jason Smith*

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*Marlin Stutzman*

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*Patrick Tiberi*

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*Ed Whitfield*

Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress

*Ted Yoho*

Ted Yoho  
Member of Congress