June 15, 2021

The Honorable Denis R. McDonough
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to make you aware of a legal prohibition against the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) providing abortion and to encourage you to embrace life-affirming policies and practices for our nation's veterans in your work as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

As you know, 38 Code of Federal Regulations §17.38(c)(1) prohibits VA from offering abortion or abortion counseling to veteran patients. During a recent hearing before the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, you stated that you do not plan to pursue public rulemaking to amend that regulation and add abortion or abortion counseling to VA's medical benefits package. We applaud that assurance. It is undoubtedly the right decision for veterans and their unborn children. However, we wanted to make you aware that, in addition to that regulatory prohibition, VA is also prohibited from providing abortion in law. Section 106 of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-585) authorized VA to provide certain health care services to women veterans but specifically prohibited VA from providing abortions. That prohibition remains law.

It is our belief – and the law maintains – that VA must never use taxpayer dollars to provide abortions or abortion counseling to veterans. To do so would be contrary to the God-given right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that generations of veterans fought to defend. We trust that you agree and that you will continue to protect and preserve the sanctity of life in VA.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to the men and women who have served.

Sincerely,

Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress

Mike Bost
Member of Congress

Chris Smith
Member of Congress

Mariannette Miller-Meeks
Member of Congress
Steve Scalise  
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress

Mike Johnson  
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress

Gary Palmer  
Member of Congress

Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress

Bob Good  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress

Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress

Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress

Randy Weber  
Member of Congress

Barry Moore  
Member of Congress
Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress

Ted Budd  
Member of Congress

Jody Hice  
Member of Congress

Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress

Earl L. “Buddy” Carter  
Member of Congress

Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress

Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress

Jeff Van Drew  
Member of Congress

Jake LaTurner  
Member of Congress

Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

Roger Williams  
Member of Congress

Tracey Mann  
Member of Congress

Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress
Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Member of Congress

Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress

Brian Mast  
Member of Congress

Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress

Jeff Fortenberry  
Member of Congress

Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress

Jim Banks  
Member of Congress

Mike D. Rogers  
Member of Congress

W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress

Robert Aderholt  
Member of Congress

Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress

Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress

John Joyce  
Member of Congress
Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress

Jim Jordan
Member of Congress

Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress

Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress

Dan Bishop
Member of Congress

Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

Carol Miller
Member of Congress

Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress

Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress

Bryan Steil
Member of Congress

Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress

Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress

Scott Franklin
Member of Congress

Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress

Lisa McClain
Member of Congress
Bill Posey  
Member of Congress

Trey Hollingsworth  
Member of Congress

Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress

Mo Brooks  
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress

Alex X. Mooney  
Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress

Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress

Sam Graves  
Member of Congress