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
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 Fiscbach
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 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

Chip Roy  
Member of Congress

Chris Jacobs  
Member of Congress

Billy Long  
Member of Congress

Marjorie Taylor Greene  
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
David B. McKinley P.E.
Member of Congress

Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress

David Kustoff
Member of Congress

Jerry L. Carl
Member of Congress

William Timmons
Member of Congress

David G. Valadao
Member of Congress

Paul A. Gosar
Member of Congress

Michael Cloud
Member of Congress

Ron Estes
Member of Congress

Ben Cline
Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

Dan Meuser
Member of Congress

Tim Burchett
Member of Congress

French Hill
Member of Congress

Adrian Smith
Member of Congress
Pat Fallon
Member of Congress

Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress

Andy Barr
Member of Congress

Julia Letlow
Member of Congress

Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress

Darrell Issa
Member of Congress

Thomas Massie
Member of Congress