

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 9, 2023

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

Dear Secretary McDonough,

I am writing to express my concern and request a deadline extension regarding the PACT Act deadline to submit a retroactive claim or an intent to file a claim that expires tonight at midnight. Reports indicate that approximately 18% of veterans and survivors who submitted claims, as well as notices of intentions to file claims, have received an error message.¹ The error message has been caused by the high volume of submitted claims.

My office has been inundated with calls from concerned veterans and their families expressing frustration and concern about the possibility they might not be able to get the benefits they have earned. There has also been angst from veterans who have been unable to speak with a representative from the VA due to the high frequency of calls received.

While I appreciate the steps you have taken to resolve this issue and the assurances made, more must be done to ensure that veterans can get the healthcare and benefits they have earned and deserve. I respectfully ask you to extend the deadline for veterans to file a claim or an intent to file a claim back to August 2024. This extra year will allow more time for veterans to fully take advantage of the VA's intentions in granting them their PACT Act claims retroactively from August 2022. I appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew M. Rosendale, Sr
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/08/09/va-pact-act-website-glitches-leave-it-unavailable-many-vets-ahead-of-deadline.html>