

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2024

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 outrage over the Montana VA Healthcare System's (Montana VA) decision to fly a "pride" flag in June. My understanding is that you issued a memo on May 24, 2024, (VIEWS 1174807) encouraging U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities across the country to fly "pride" flags. The VA must focus on ensuring our nation's heroes receive the healthcare and benefits they deserve, not promoting woke identity politics.

I respect your commitment to veterans and their families, but it bewilders me you would believe it is a good use of taxpayer dollars to promote "pride" flags and events. They are a waste of money and do not serve veterans. Flying this flag puts one group of veterans above the rest. Veterans protect our rights, defend our freedoms, and sacrifice daily on a personal level, and they should not be inundated with left-wing propaganda when they go to the Montana VA to receive healthcare. Our veterans deserve a VA free from politics focused solely on their well-being.

Since the VA is unwilling to ban these flags from being flown at their facilities, Congress will act. As you know, Congress is a coequal branch and controls the power of the purse. I was pleased to see the FY25 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, H.R. 8580, contain language that would prohibit "pride" flags from being flown at VA facilities. I request answers to the following questions by June 18, 2024.

- How do VA facilities flying "pride" flags ensure our veterans receive the healthcare and benefits they have earned?
- How much money does the VA plan to spend on flying "pride" flags and "pride" events during June?
- How does promoting divisive identity politics help veterans and their families?

Sincerely,



Matthew M. Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress

CC: Duane B. Gil, Interim Medical Center Director, Montana VA Healthcare System