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 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 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
Chuck Fleischmann  
Member of Congress

Garret Graves  
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress

Liz Cheney  
Member of Congress

Austin Scott  
Member of Congress

Beth Van Duyne  
Member of Congress

Greg Pence  
Member of Congress

Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress

Eric A. "Rick" Crawford  
Member of Congress

Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress

John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

Ashley Hinson  
Member of Congress

James R. Baird  
Member of Congress
Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress

Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress

Mark E. Green, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress

Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress

Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress

David Schweikert  
Member of Congress

Neal Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Fred Keller  
Member of Congress

Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress

Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress

John Rose  
Member of Congress

Michael Guest  
Member of Congress

Tony Gonzales  
Member of Congress

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
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