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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3507

TRANSPORTATION AND
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COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
OVERSIGHT AND REFORM COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT

June 6, 2019

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Wilkie,

We are writing to learn how the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is complying with the Prompt Payment Act of 1982 and with Section 111, the Prompt Payment to Providers section of the VA MISSION Act of 2018, which reiterated prompt payment standards the Secretary is required to follow for care provided to eligible veterans in the community.

According to the most recent U.S. Census, there are more than 18.2 million veterans in the United States who may seek care through the VA. In recent years, reimbursement payments have increasingly been delayed to private practices, causing strain on the billing process and even threatening the veteran's financial capabilities such as their credit score. Slow reimbursements are causing medical specialists to decline veterans as patients, fearing they will not be re-paid. We must ensure timely reimbursements for eligible veterans who receive care.

In his remarks to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States National Convention in 2018, President Trump said in reference to the Veterans Choice Act, "So now, if you can't get treatment that you need in a timely manner...you will have the right to see a private doctor immediately and we will pay for it."¹ We join President Trump in advocating for our veteran constituents seeking private care, and want to ensure those who seek it are not subject to undue financial stress as a result of delayed VA reimbursements.

We respectfully request an outline of the steps taken by the VA to reduce the billing backlog. It is our understanding the VA has hired new third-party administrators, Optum Public Sector Solutions, Inc, to assist in this process as part of the VA MISSION Act's implementation. How will this new contract improve services?

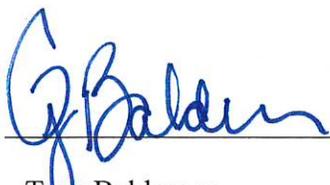
Our service members and veterans deserve the best possible healthcare and expect a reasonable billing process after they have received treatment. We look forward to working with you and the Administration to improve outcomes for our nation's veterans.

Sincerely,

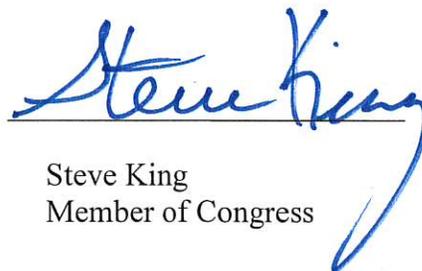


Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

1. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-veterans-foreign-wars-united-states-national-convention-kansas-city-mo/>



Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



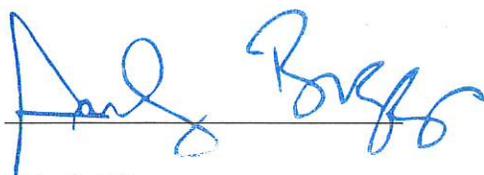
Steve King
Member of Congress



Mark Green
Member of Congress



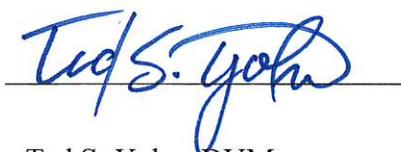
Doug Collins
Member of Congress



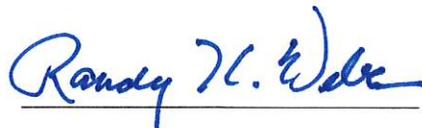
Andy Biggs
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