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October 22, 2024

The Honorable Denis R. McDonough
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough,

I write to request publication of the pending Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) proposed rule, which is anticipated to change eligibility for the program for veterans and their caregivers. I understand this proposed rule has been with the Office of Management and Budget since February of this year, and I urge you to work with Director Young to prioritize its publication.

President Biden's Executive Order 14095, *Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers*, encouraged the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to make appropriate modifications to the eligibility criteria of the PCAFC by the end of 2023. At that time, I encouraged VA to ensure stakeholder engagement in the process of developing comprehensive criteria that would include all populations of caregivers and veterans, including legacy participants enrolled on or before September 30, 2020. Now, nearly a year later, veterans and caregivers are still waiting.

Since the suspension of dismissals of legacy participants is ending on September 30, 2025, veterans and caregivers are concerned they may be dropped from PCAFC without changes to the program. Additionally, a change in the presidential administration next year may cause further delays. I hear regularly from constituents that uncertainty about the future of PCAFC impacts their financial and emotional well-being.

VA continues to be a leader in supporting caregivers and veterans through PCAFC and other caregiver programs, but various changes made to the program have led to a loss in trust among those veterans and caregivers in the legacy cohort. This Administration has worked to redevelop that trust and must now publish the pending PCAFC proposed rule to ensure veterans and their family caregivers can plan for the future.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
Chairman
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

CC: The Honorable Shalanda Young, Director, Office of Management and Budget