Dear Secretaries, Administrators, Directors and Commissioners:

Thank you for your service to our nation. As our country grapples with ever-increasing debt and the fiscal reality of needing to do more with less, promoting government efficiency is imperative. Over the past several years, one need not look further than the Department of Veterans Affairs to find numerous instances of waste, fraud, and malfeasance. These range from instances of staff intoxication during surgery to improper bonuses awarded to senior employees -- all while our veterans suffered from lengthy wait times for medical appointments and benefit appeals claims.

Recently, however, Congress granted VA Secretary David Shulkin the flexibility to promote greater accountability and efficiency for all levels of VA employees. Specifically, these new authorities include the ability to swiftly remove underperforming VA employees, recoup bonuses and other benefits provided to employees engaging in waste, fraud, or abuse, while expanding whistleblower protections for VA employees with the establishment of a new Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection. By signing this legislation, known as the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-41) into law, we appreciate President Trump’s support in working with Congress to make bold reforms to existing operational processes at a currently-beleaguered federal agency.

We write you today to solicit your input on whether the new authorities extended to Secretary Shulkin would be beneficial towards increasing the efficiency, effectiveness, and performance of your departments/agencies.

- Would the extension of these authorities to your department/agency be beneficial to operational efficiency, morale, and employee accountability?
- What recommendations do you have to improve or expand these authorities?

We appreciate your consideration of this request, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Brad R. Wenstrup  
Member of Congress

Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress

Tom Rice  
Member of Congress

Robert Pittenger  
Member of Congress
John Rutherford  
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

Mike Johnson  
Member of Congress

Neal Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Mike Bishop  
Member of Congress

Jim Banks  
Member of Congress

Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

John Ratcliffe  
Member of Congress

Ralph Abraham, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress

Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress

Lloyd Smucker  
Member of Congress
Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress

Warren Davidson  
Member of Congress

Rod Blum  
Member of Congress

Mark Walker  
Member of Congress

Greg Gianforte  
Member of Congress

Dave Brat  
Member of Congress

Trey Hollingsworth  
Member of Congress

Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress

Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall  
Member of Congress

Steve King  
Member of Congress

Mark Sanford  
Member of Congress

Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress
Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

Ed Royce
Member of Congress

Todd Rokita
Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress

Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

Austir Scott
Member of Congress

Mike Coffman
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

CC: All Federal Executive and Independent Agencies