

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 13, 2017

The Honorable David Shulkin
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, District of Columbia 20240

Dear Secretary Shulkin,

I write today to express my concern about the operations of the VA Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers program and to urge you to reverse recent decisions to discharge families from the program.

I supported the establishment of the VA Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers program to ensure that caregivers receive access to the resources necessary to support our veterans. Given the important role of the program, I also believe that all caregivers and veterans deserve to have their ability to participate in the program approached with the same standards of caution, care, and transparency.

Recent actions taken by the VA suggest the Department is not living up to that standard. Several reports in recent months have documented instances of VA dropping participating caregivers and the veterans they care for from the program with inadequate, unclear, and inconsistent explanation, potentially undermining the health and well-being of these families. Our veterans and the hidden heroes who care for them deserve better.

While I am appreciative of VA's decision to freeze all discharges pending an internal review, this decision fails to account for those already dropped from the program. Caregivers and veterans discharged from the program in the weeks or months prior to the implementation of the freeze should be re-enrolled in the program and reimbursed for the time during which they were terminated until the internal review is completed and an improved, consistent, and transparent eligibility determination process is established.

We rely on the commitment men and women in our Armed Forces and their families make to ensuring that America remains the home of the free for all of us. When they are wounded, they need our commitment in return. I urge you to take swift action to resolve this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate