

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 18, 2021

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

Dear Secretary McDonough,

Congratulations on your recent confirmation as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. I write to express concerns about the Department of Veterans Affairs continued delay in implementing President Biden's Executive Order issued on January 22, 2021 on collective bargaining and called on agencies to "suspend, revise, and rescind" previous orders that restricted VA employees rights and abilities to organize.

As President Biden noted in his order, "career civil servants are the backbone of the federal workforce, providing the expertise and experience necessary for the critical functioning of the federal government." The executive order also noted that the federal government should serve as a model employer, one of the ways we can do that is by quickly issuing guidance that restores employees' rights.

I urge you to work with local VA units and labor to quickly implement the letter and spirit of President Biden's Executive Order and ensure that our critical federal employees are treated fairly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marilyn Strickland", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress

Cc: Kathleen McGettigan (Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management)