

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 3, 2021

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

Dear Secretary McDonough:

We write today to express our growing concern for veterans who have served our nation in Afghanistan and the global war on terrorism. As the United States has withdrawn all forces on the ground, it is imperative we support our veterans here at home who may be dealing with depression and other mental health challenges.

We have spoken with many veterans throughout our districts who are struggling immensely and have expressed frustration with the events that have taken place in Afghanistan in recent weeks and months. We write to urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to use all resources possible to inform veterans of the services available to them and to help them during these difficult times. As the situation continues to unfold, it is important veterans are aware of these services and know that they are not alone.

To ensure all is being done to support veterans during this time, we respectfully ask that the following steps be made:

- Connect with veterans who experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, or any other mental health condition via letter to inform them of services available to them,
- Implement a national messaging campaign to communicate to veterans that their service in Afghanistan was important, and that they honorably served their nation, and
- Increase outreach events across the country.

It is vital all veterans know their service was meaningful and mattered to our country. Our offices are committed to working with the Department in the coming months to support veterans in any way we can.

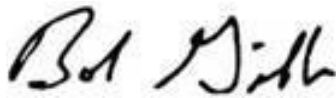
Sincerely,



Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



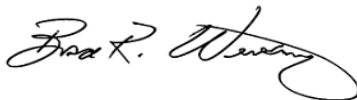
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress




Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



Warren Davidson
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress