



**Bird asks officials to stand up to Trump.
“Offering a severance for VA employees to resign is unacceptable.”**

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Hales Corners, WI

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LuAnn Bird calls on elected officials to take action against a letter from the Trump administration offering VA employees severance pay to resign and work in the private sector. She argues that this illegal downsizing disrupts the care provided to veterans, including her husband Phil, a paralyzed Vietnam veteran who relies heavily on the VA for his medical needs.

“It’s important to share our stories so everyone who voted for Trump can see the damage he is causing all over our country and beyond. We love the VA and want to keep the nurses, doctors and other employees who take such good care of our veterans.” Bird said.

Below Bird shares the letter she sent to the White House emphasizing the importance of the VA to her family. She urges others to join her in speaking up against this policy.

Contact the White House here - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

February 4, 2025

Dear President Trump,

My husband Phil was permanently paralyzed in a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) related construction accident 35 years ago. He is a combat veteran who served in Vietnam from 1965-1967. He uses the Clement Zablocki Veterans' Affairs Medical Center in Milwaukee for all his health care needs. They take such good care of him. After countless hospital stays over the years and many complications, including a stroke, we have become like a family with the staff, nurses and doctors. In this past year he has broken his ankle, leg and some ribs in falls as his health has declined. He is losing the use of his hands so he no longer can take care of himself. Completely bedridden, we still find joy in being together, knowing that we have a strong medical team to turn to. Until today.

We were at the VA for Phil's annual exam and were shocked to learn that the nurses and doctors received a letter, not from the head of the VA but from the Office of Personnel Management, with no directions, offering all the Milwaukee employees severance pay if they resign and go work in the private sector.

Phil suffers from severe chronic pain. He has osteoporosis, spinal stenosis, kidney failure, and now you want to take away his medical team? This is not acceptable. Please rescind the letter immediately!