



For Immediate Release
March 6, 2025

Contact: Pam Fendt, President
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Milwaukee VA Solidarity Rally on Friday, March 7, 2025 at 4:15pm

Location: Public sidewalk in front of Milwaukee VA, approximately 49th & National Ave.
Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center
5000 West National Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53295

DOGE cuts hurt Milwaukee workers at the VA, and by extension hurt veterans as well. Last week 10 AFGE members were terminated due to cuts by Elon Musk's DOGE.

Firings will exacerbate workforce shortages already created by a current hiring freeze. The VA is already short-staffed, which hurts the quality of services our veterans receive. Their care conditions are the working conditions of the members of the Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals Local 5000, American Federation of Government Employees Local 003, and Services Employees Union International Wisconsin.

Looking ahead, the US Office of Budget and Management has issued a memo calling for a 30% mandatory reduction in force, and the VA is supposed to be submitting their plan this coming week. Members of the labor and veteran community are gathering to warn the public that this situation is dire. The current administration in DC poses a unique threat as they fire people and undermine unions all in the name of cost cutting. The workers at this VA are united. We won't let the forces trying to attack federal workers win. We are united in our desire to care for our veterans and fight for our jobs. We are united by our love for veterans, and we are standing in solidarity. We recognize the end goal of the administration is to cut, then privatize the VA for their own self-enrichment. We know that privatization does not lead to lower costs or better service.

At 4:15 pm MALC President Pam Fendt will open the event. Speakers include:

- Russell Schneider, who has worked at the VA for 41 years as a Carpenter. He is a member of SEIU WI.
- Stephanie Bloomingdale, President, Wisconsin State Federation of Labor
- James Stancil, a veteran who was fired from the VA via email. He is a member of AFGE Local 3.
- Congresswoman Gwen Moore, 4th District Wisconsin
- Mark Foreman, Veterans for Peace
- Monica Luecking-David, Nurse at the VA Hospital and WFNHP Local 5000 VA Medical Center Chapter President

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