



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

March 17, 2025

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Westley W. O. Moore
Governor, the State of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request that the Governor Take Action to Protect Maryland's Veterans and the U.S.
Department of Veterans Affairs

Dear Governor Moore,

On behalf of the 22 member organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC), I write on a matter of extreme urgency to the veteran and military community – active duty, Maryland National Guard, Federal Reserves, veterans, their family members, and survivors – in our state concerning draconian terminations that the current administration in Washington is attempting to impose on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). While these terminations have been rescinded by U.S. District Court rulings in California and Maryland, that is only a temporary “fix.” As stated in the Maryland ruling¹, “Nothing in this Order prohibits the Government from conducting lawful terminations of federal probationary employees—whether pursuant to a proper RIF or else for cause, on the basis of good-faith, individualized determinations, under the standards for making such determinations set forth in the foregoing Memorandum, and not as part of a mass termination.”

If these court orders are not sustained, the VA has been directed to reduce its workforce by some 80,000 positions, many held by veterans. This arbitrary, unfair reduction-in-force (RIF) was directed without explanation, analysis, or rationale other than cost-cutting. VA operations across its three domains – health care, benefits, and the national cemetery system in Maryland and across the nation will be crippled by these cuts. In our view, the disruption of services will have severe, long-term consequences on the promises made by a grateful nation to tens of thousands of Maryland veterans who raised their hand to ‘protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic.’

As you know, Maryland has a robust VA-funded healthcare system including two hospitals, multiple Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs), Veterans Homes, and benefits offices.

¹ https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.mdd.578045/gov.uscourts.mdd.578045.44.0_3.pdf

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Though it is not perfect, the VA system has made remarkable strides in delivering top-quality health care and benefits to our veterans. Much of that progress will be put to the wrecking ball unless something is done to stop these mindless cuts.

As a veteran yourself, you know that these cuts are dead wrong for our State and the nation. The Maryland Military Coalition urgently calls upon you to take concerted action with your fellow Governors of both parties and the National Governors' Association to demand justification under Federal law and regulations for any RIF at the VA that will affect the delivery of health care and benefits to our veterans.

The MMC represents approximately 150,000 of Maryland's 350,000 veterans, not including their families and survivors. Founded on Veterans Day in 2018, the MMC is the leading advocate in Maryland working to protect and defend benefits dearly earned in service to the nation by the Uniformed Services community. Visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

Thank you for your service to the nation and your service as Governor.

Respectfully,



Jayson Spiegel
LTC (Ret), USAR
President

Cc: The Honorable Bill Ferguson, President, Senate
The Honorable Adrienne Jones, Speaker, House of Delegates
The Honorable Anthony Woods, Maryland Secretary of Veterans and Military Families
Senator Benjamin Brooks, Chairs, Veterans Caucus, Senate
Delegate Mike Rogers, Chair, Veterans Caucus, House of Delegates



Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Military Society

American Minority Veterans Research Project

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Platoon 22

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars