



January 11, 2024

Chairman Jon Tester  
Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs  
412 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Mike Bost  
House Committee on Veterans Affairs  
364 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Tester and Chairman Bost,

On behalf of the activists our organization represents across the country, we call on your respective committees to hold oversight hearings on the unresolved sexual harassment claims coming out of the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Resolution Management, Diversity & Inclusion and to pass the Restore VA Accountability Act to ensure the VA can create an environment safe from sexual predators and harassment.

Our volunteers are deeply concerned to learn that the office which is tasked with providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for employees in the VA is the center of allegations of an inappropriate and hostile work environment for its employees. The men and women tasked with serving our nation's veterans can only perform at the level required when they are secure in their ability to not be harassed at work by a supervisor.

According to the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity & Inclusion's [website](#), "the mission of the Department's Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Program is to grow a diverse workforce and cultivate an inclusive work environment, where employees are fully engaged and empowered to deliver the outstanding services to our Nation's Veterans, their families and beneficiaries."

The office has fallen far short of the standard they have set for themselves, and our veterans are set to pay the price for a toxic and dangerous work environment perpetrated at the VA. Through 2023, we have witnessed unacceptable stories of veterans dying because of poor care or by bad management. The VA needs serious accountability to protect the employees and the veterans they serve.

With this threat in mind, Congress should consider the deep impact dangerous work environments create and the downstream effects that this has on the care provided to veterans.

For these reasons, we urge you to hold oversight hearings immediately and to pass the Restore VA Accountability Act.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russ Duerstine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a distinct "D".

Russ Duerstine  
Executive Director,  
Concerned Veterans for America