

United States Senate

September 14, 2020

The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Wilkie,

I write concerning the recent data breach of the VA's Financial Services Center potentially affecting some 46,000 veterans nationwide who rely on providers in their community for care.

As you know, Montana is home to one of our nation's largest veteran populations (per capita), many of whom reside in rural areas beyond the reach of a VA medical center. For these veterans, community providers are essential to ensuring timely access to quality care. Community providers must have the confidence and assurance that their patients' information is secure, and that funding will be received on time to continue partnering with the VA. While I applaud the progress VA has made, and the actions taken in response to this breach, more must be done to protect our veterans against cyber criminals and restore confidence with medical providers in Montana communities. I trust that after a thorough review of the incident, leaders will be held accountable and oversight of our veterans' personal information strengthened. I request an update on the VA's actions once that review has been conducted.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator