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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

April 17, 2018

The Honorable Robert Wilkie  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

The Honorable R. Alexander Acosta  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Mr. Acting Secretary and Mr. Secretary:

I am writing today regarding Vets.gov and Veterans.gov.

Vets.gov is a website maintained by the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) that is designed to act as a single, secure portal through which veterans can access a wide range of services including healthcare, housing, education, and employment benefits as well as the Veterans Crisis Hotline.<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Digital Service team at the VA launched the website in 2015 "to streamline a veteran's experience to discover, apply for, track, and manage the benefits they have earned in one place using any device."<sup>2</sup>

Veterans.gov, on the other hand, is a website maintained by the Department of Labor that assists veterans in accessing employment benefits and starting their own businesses.<sup>3</sup> It also provides a portal through which employers can seek employment applications specifically from veterans.<sup>4</sup>

Despite Vets.gov's purported goal of providing a single portal through which veterans can access all of their benefits, the website fails to alleviate the possible confusion generated by the existence of Veterans.gov. In addition, I understand that the two sites, which are maintained separately by your agencies, do not share or integrate information.

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<sup>1</sup> Vets.gov, Home Page ([www.vets.gov](http://www.vets.gov)) (accessed Jan. 3, 2018).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Digital Service, July 2017 Report to Congress: Simplifying Veteran-facing Services through Vets.gov (July 2017) ([www.usds.gov/report-to-congress/2017/07/vets-dot-gov/](http://www.usds.gov/report-to-congress/2017/07/vets-dot-gov/)).

<sup>3</sup> Veterans.gov, Home Page ([www.veterans.gov](http://www.veterans.gov)) (accessed Jan. 3, 2018).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

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To better understand how your agencies work together to ensure that you are not duplicating efforts and are providing the best possible services to veterans, I request you provide the following documents and information regarding VA and Department of Labor efforts to interface Vets.gov and Veterans.gov on or before May 18, 2018:

1. What are the status of VA and Department of Labor efforts, if any, to integrate Veterans.gov and Vets.gov? Please provide information on the efforts to fully integrate these websites in the last five years.
2. Please provide all documents, including draft directives, memoranda, action plans, or timelines, that refer or relate to the issue of integrating Veterans.gov and Vets.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Saundra Shropshire of my staff at (202) 224-2627. Please send any official correspondence related to this request to Rina Patel at [Rina\\_Patel@hsgac.senate.gov](mailto:Rina_Patel@hsgac.senate.gov). Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member

cc: Ron Johnson  
Chairman