

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 1, 2023

The Honorable Denis McDonough  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Secretary McDonough,

As the Department of Veteran Affairs prepares its Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) budget request, we ask that you include a robust and specific request sufficient to ensure all female veterans have access to quality mammography services.

Access to screening for breast cancer saves lives. No veteran should have to wait for months, drive for hours, or wade through red tape to get a mammogram when they need one.

We must prioritize mammography services and ensure that every veteran has access to the comprehensive care they need across our country, including the regular mammograms that are a critical component of women's medical care. This is of particular importance among female veterans, where a National Library of Medicine study found that female veterans were nearly three times more likely to develop invasive breast cancer than the rest of the population.<sup>1</sup>

We therefore ask that FY24 Department of Veterans Affairs budget request include the resources necessary to expand access to quality mammogram equipment, services, and relevant outreach activities. This includes robust funding for the VA Office of Women's Health to support their initiatives for mobile mammography, advanced mammography equipment, as well as outreach activities to publicize these services. Funding should be sufficient to enable the VA to comply with updated requirements on equipment and testing.

Additionally, we ask for your response to the following questions:

1. Are there currently plans to increase the number of mobile mammography units? If so, please describe those plans.
2. Do any efforts exist to promote awareness about VA mobile mammography services, and will you commit to improving outreach activities?
3. How do current staffing levels affect veterans' access to mammography services and does a plan exist to address any staffing shortfalls that do exist?
4. What efforts exist to improve mammography access in states and regions where the VA does not have mammography facilities?


---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8345920/>

5. What additional authorities or resources do you need to ensure every veteran has access to quality, regular mammography services?


Congress and the VA must work together to ensure there are sufficient resources to provide life-saving prevention and treatment services no matter where veterans live. Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



---

Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator




---

Cynthia Lummis  
United States Senator




---

Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



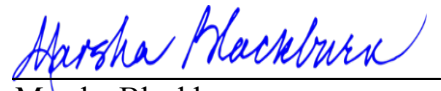
---

Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



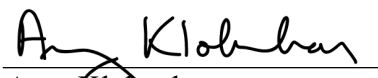
---

Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



---

Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator



---

Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator