

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 28, 2026

Secretary Doug A. Collins
United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420

David Stockwell, Director
VA Northern California Health Care System
10535 Hospital Way
Mather, CA 95655
David.Stockwell@va.gov

Dear Secretary Collins and Director Stockwell,

We write regarding concerns raised by representatives of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 1206 that official time, union office access, and other collective bargaining rights have not been fully restored at the VA Northern California Health Care System. We would appreciate additional information regarding these concerns and the steps VA Northern California Health Care System has taken to comply with applicable federal court orders and its collective bargaining obligations.

For background, on March 13, 2026, a federal district court judge ordered the Department of Veterans Affairs to reinstate its Master Collective Bargaining Agreement with AFGE, including applicable local supplemental agreements and memoranda of understanding. Those agreements provide, among other things, for official time for authorized union representatives and access to union office space and equipment.

AFGE Local 1206 represents bargaining unit employees within the VA Northern California Health Care System. Representatives of the union allege that some of the collective bargaining rights provided under the Master Collective Bargaining Agreement and its local supplements have not been fully restored at the VA Northern California Health Care System. In particular, they have alleged that a Local 1206 representative was recorded as absent without leave (AWOL) and denied pay while performing union representational duties, in addition to raising concerns about denied access to union office space and equipment.

We take seriously the concerns raised by union representatives, particularly in light of the ongoing litigation regarding the termination of the Master Collective Bargaining Agreement. Indeed, on August 7, 2026, the federal district court issued a further order requiring the agreement to remain in effect pursuant to its continuation provisions.

To better understand the circumstances and VA Northern California Health Care System's implementation of the reinstated agreement, we respectfully request responses to the following questions:

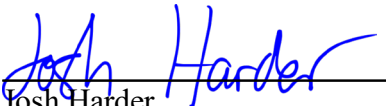
- 1) What steps has VA Northern California Health Care System taken to implement the March 13, 2026, court order and the reinstated Master Collective Bargaining Agreement, including applicable local agreements and memoranda of understanding?

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- 2) Has official time been restored for all authorized AFGE Local 1206 representatives consistent with the applicable collective bargaining agreements? If not, please explain any limitations that remain and the basis for those limitations.
- 3) Has an AFGE Local 1206 representative been recorded as AWOL or denied pay while performing union representational duties? If so, please explain the circumstances, including VA Northern California Health Care System's determination as to whether the activity qualified for official time under the applicable collective bargaining agreement.
- 4) Have AFGE Local 1206 representatives been provided access to the union office space and equipment contemplated by the applicable collective bargaining agreements? If not, please explain the current status of that access.
- 5) Please describe the steps VA Northern California Health Care System has taken to resolve any outstanding disagreements between VA Northern California Health Care System and AFGE Local 1206 regarding implementation of the Master Collective Bargaining Agreement.

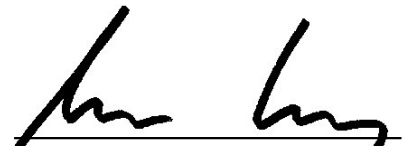
Please provide a prompt and complete response to these questions by no later than September 11, 2026. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Josh Harder
Member of Congress


Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress


Ro Khanna
Member of Congress


Adam Gray
Member of Congress


Doris Matsui
Member of Congress


Mike Levin
Member of Congress

JOSH HARDER
9TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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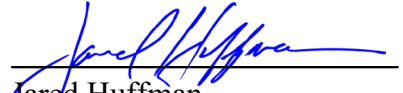
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Member of Congress



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