

News Release

Office of Public Affairs Media Relations Washington, DC 20420 (202) 461-7600 www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Feb. 18, 2021

VA offers continued debt relief options to Veterans

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reaffirms its commitment to extend debt relief for Veterans through Sept. 30.

VA will continue suspension of collection on all Veteran benefit overpayments and medical copayment debts incurred after April 1, 2020.

VA is suspending this debt collection to provide Veterans continued financial relief due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"My top priority right now is to do everything in our power to help our Veterans, caregivers and their families get through this challenging COVID-19 pandemic," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "VA will continue to find ways to provide real relief to 2 million Veterans and their families as we fight through this health crisis together."

To assist with making informed choices for their situation, VA will notify Veterans of the existence of their current debt and available <u>expansive relief options</u>. These options include making payments, extending repayment plans, waivers, compromises and temporary hardship suspensions.

Veterans and beneficiaries with questions regarding benefit overpayments can see <u>frequently asked questions</u>, go online to <u>submit requests</u> or call 800-827-0648. Call volume is generally lower Tuesday-Friday.

For questions about medical and pharmacy copayment debt, Veterans can contact the Health Resource Center at 866-400-1238.