

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 7, 2025

The Honorable Charles Ezell
Acting Director
U.S. Office of Personnel Management
Washington, D.C.

Acting Director Ezell:

We write to express deep concern regarding the ongoing failure to provide federal health benefits to reinstated federal employees, despite premiums continuing to be deducted from their paychecks. This situation is not only unjust but represents a fundamental failure to uphold the obligations owed to the dedicated public servants who serve their country with integrity.

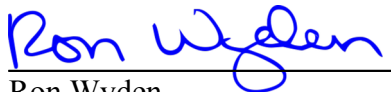
This issue has directly impacted Oregonians working at government agencies such as the Internal Revenue Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the VA Health System – individuals who committed their careers to public service. We have heard from constituents who, during this lapse in coverage, required life-saving surgeries for serious illnesses such as cancer but were left without the health insurance necessary to afford those procedures.

Many of these employees, after being wrongfully terminated, have now returned to their positions only to find that they cannot access the health coverage they have paid for. To reinstate these employees without providing access to the health care they've earned is misleading, and detrimental to the health of these employees and their families. Some have already incurred significant out-of-pocket medical expenses—amounting to hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars—due to a lapse in coverage that should never have occurred. This undue financial and emotional strain is entirely preventable and must be rectified without delay.

We urge the Office of Personnel Management to promptly address this failure and ensure that all reinstated federal employees receive the benefits they are entitled to without further delay. We would appreciate a response outlining what steps will be taken to resolve this issue and prevent similar injustices in the future by the 14th of April.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator