

**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS COUNCIL #53**

**Affiliated with the AFL - CIO
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee**

Oscar L. Williams, Jr. Chairperson
3rd Exec. V-President, NVAC
29 S. Lake Street
Danville, IL 61832-8101

Richard Zimnoch, Member
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VA Regional Office
20 Washington Place
Newark, NJ 07102

Jeanese Staley, Member
Pres., AFGE Local 1915
7212 S. Lake Marion Cr.
Columbia, SC 29223

Bill Wetmore, Member
NVAC Nat. Rep.
2318 Alava Court
Waldorf, MD 20603

November 26, 2001

Norman E. Jacobs
Office of Labor Management Relations (LMR)
Department of Veterans Affairs, Suite 215
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

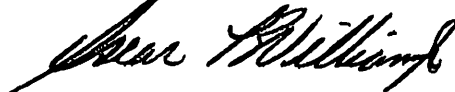
Subject: Demand to Bargain – VHA Directive 1021 and Handbook 1021.1 “Education Debt Reduction Program (EDRP)”

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

In accordance with Article 44, Section 2 C, of the Master Agreement, the National VA Council is formally demanding to bargain over the cited subject above in the Department. Please provide the above named bargaining committee with any information and/or data concerning the cited subject above. The negotiations of this matter should normally begin no later than ten (10) workdays after the management chief negotiator in this matter receives our demand to bargain.

Please cease and desist any implementation until the bargaining obligation has been met. The named bargaining committee may request a briefing over the cited subject above, before sending any proposals. If you have any questions please contact me at (217) 554-4866.

Sincerely,



Oscar L. Williams Jr.
3rd Executive Vice President
Chairperson, Mid-Term Bargaining Committee
National VA Council #53

cc: Alma L. Lee, President National VA Council #53
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee, NVAC
Bonnie M. Kerber, VHA HRM Group

**AFGE: The Future Is Ours
Creating A Shared Vision For The 21st Century**