



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES  
NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS COUNCIL #53  
Affiliated with the AFL - CIO  
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee**

Oscar L. Williams Jr., Chairperson    Patrick Russell, Member    Sandra Eggleston, Member    Bill Wetmore, Member  
3<sup>rd</sup> Exec. V-President, NVAC    8<sup>th</sup> Dist. Rep., NVAC    13<sup>th</sup> Dist. Rep., NVAC    NVAC, Nat. Rep.  
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August 8, 2002

Ronald E. Cowles, Associate Deputy, LMR  
Office of Labor Management Relations (LMR)  
Department of Veterans Affairs, Suite 215  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

Subject: Demand to Bargain – VHA “CARES” Program

Dear Mr. Cowles:

In a letter date June 5, 2000 the National VA Council is formally demanding to bargain over the VHA Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Program. Again the NVAC is resubmitting our National demand to bargain on CARES in VHA. 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. Failure on the Department to meet with its bargaining obligation will result in appropriate action by NVAC.

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.  
Chairperson, Mid-Term Bargaining Committee  
National VA Council #53

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

**AFGE: The Future Is Ours  
Creating A Shared Vision For The 21<sup>st</sup> Century**