



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Washington DC 20420
July 13, 2020

Paul Ray
Administrator
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Paul:

In accordance with 44 U.S.C. 3507(j), VA is requesting emergency review of a revised collection of information under 38 CFR 71.25, which is currently approved under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control #2900-0768.

I am writing to request emergency processing of revisions to OMB Control Number 2900-0768 associated with our final rule on the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Amendments Under the VA MISSION Act of 2018. This collection is essential for the mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs and is needed prior to the regular time period prescribed by the Paperwork Reduction Act. At this point, VA cannot reasonably comply with the normal clearance procedures. VA, especially the Veterans Health Administration, has been focused on COVID-19 response over the last several months, limiting our ability to comply with normal paperwork reduction clearance procedures. In addition, the use of normal clearance procedures is reasonably likely to prevent or disrupt the collection of information essential to implementation of important programmatic changes benefiting Veterans and other stakeholders. The implementation of this information collection requires alignment of our information technology resources with the beginning of the new fiscal year, October 1st, in order to avoid improper payments and litigation risk. In addition, we believe that timely implementation of our new Caregivers program will assist caregivers and the Veterans they serve in the COVID-19 environment.

We request emergency clearance by our intended effective date of the final rule, 10/1/2020. We are also publishing our 60-day Federal Register notice to begin the regular clearance process. We also recognize that we may be able to improve the coordination of our Paperwork Reduction Act activities to reduce the number of emergency clearance requests. Toward that end, we intend to work with your staff, including an initial meeting within the next two weeks.

Thank you very much for your attention and assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brooks D. Tucker".

Brooks D. Tucker,
Acting Chief of Staff,
Department of Veterans Affairs.