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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

August 28, 2025

Dear Chairman Cassidy:

As you know, last night at the request of HHS Secretary Kennedy, President Trump allegedly fired Dr. Susan Monarez, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) after only a few weeks on the job.

I am very disturbed that the Trump Administration apparently made this reckless decision because Director Monarez refused to act as a rubber stamp to implement Secretary Kennedy's dangerous agenda to substantially limit the use of safe and effective vaccines and undermine the confidence that the American people have in scientific achievements that have saved millions of lives.

In addition to Dr. Monarez's firing, four senior leaders at the agency [announced](#) their resignation this week. In resignation letters [released](#) on Wednesday, two of the senior leaders resigning cited increasing political pressure to mislead the American public as a reason for leaving.

If true, that would be beyond unacceptable. We need leaders at the CDC and HHS who are committed to improving public health and have the courage to stand up for science, not officials who have a history of spreading bogus conspiracy theories and disinformation that will endanger the lives of the American people and people throughout the world.

Therefore, I am writing to urge you to conduct a bipartisan investigation into the firing of Dr. Monarez and the resignation of the senior leaders at the CDC. As part of that investigation, Secretary Kennedy must testify at a hearing in the HELP Committee as soon as possible. We should also invite Dr. Monarez and the senior CDC officials who resigned to testify as well.

It is absolutely imperative that trust in vaccine science not be undermined. The well being of millions of people are at stake. In just six months, Secretary Kennedy has completely upended the process for reviewing and recommending vaccines for the public. He has unilaterally narrowed eligibility for COVID vaccines approved by the FDA, despite an ongoing [surge](#) in cases. He has replaced non-partisan scientific experts on CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices with ideologues with limited expertise and a history of undermining vaccines. He has spread misinformation about the safety and effectiveness of vaccines during the largest measles outbreak in over 30 years. He continues to spread misinformation about COVID vaccines. Now he is pushing out scientific leaders who refuse to act as a rubber stamp for his dangerous conspiracy theories and manipulate science. Enough is enough. We have got to make

it clear to Secretary Kennedy that his actions to double down on his war on science and disinformation campaign must end. Too many lives are at stake.

Yesterday, you called for oversight of the firings and resignations at the agency. I agree. As a start, the American people should hear directly from Secretary Kennedy and Dr. Monarez and every member of our committee should be able to ask questions and get honest answers from them. I urge you to call a hearing immediately on these actions.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Sincerely,



Bernard Sanders
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions