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August 20, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman
Committee on Education and Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20215

Dear Chairman Walberg:

As the Ranking Member of the Committee on Education and Workforce (Committee), I write to follow up on a previous request¹ that the Committee immediately hold an oversight hearing regarding the activities and proposals of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS or the Department). The urgency of an oversight hearing is exacerbated by the recent termination of 4,623 dedicated public servants on July 14, 2025,² and HHS' continued lack of transparency surrounding its reorganization plans.³ Per Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has a jurisdictional and oversight responsibility to assess how HHS' actions align or conflict with its statutory duties.

The Committee usually has the opportunity to hear from the Secretary during an annual budget hearing to discuss the policies and the priorities of the Department. To date, this hearing has not occurred this year. Further, we have not yet received comprehensive information from HHS regarding the impacts of the proposed reorganization and the reductions in force (RIFs) undertaken by the Department. These actions threaten the core functions of essential programs. For example, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) is vital to support older adults and people with disabilities, yet the agency is slated for elimination,⁴ and 90 full-time employees

¹ Letter to House Committee on Education and Workforce Chairman Tim Walberg from Committee on Education & Workforce Democrats (Apr. 8, 2025), https://democrats-edworkforce.house.gov/imo/media/doc/rm_scott_letter_to_hhs_re_restructuring_reduction_in_force.pdf.

² Rene Marsh, Meg Tirrell, and Taml Luhby, *HHS carries out mass firings across health agencies after Supreme Court decision*, CNN (July 14, 2025, 10:02 PM), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/07/14/health/hhs-layoffs-supreme-court>; HHS Reduction in Force FAQs sent from U.S. Dep't of Health & Hum. Servs. (Jul. 26, 2025) [email on file with the Committee].

³ *HHS Announces Transformation to Make America Healthy Again*, U.S. Dep't of Health & Hum. Servs. (Mar. 27, 2025), <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/hhs-restructuring-doge.html> [hereinafter Reorganization Announcement].

⁴ *Id.*

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were terminated on July 14, 2025.⁵ Democrats on the Committee also have little information on the layoffs that may have been administered by mistake on April 1, 2025,⁶ as well as any possible mistakes made in the July 14, 2025, terminations.

As these questions remain unanswered, I urge a full Committee hearing to examine the full extent, intentions, and impacts of the Department's RIFs and proposed restructuring. Most importantly, the Committee needs to fulfill its responsibility to assess fully whether the Department is fulfilling its obligations under laws within the jurisdiction of the Committee. As the dismantlement of key programs threatens health and wellbeing, Congress and the American public deserve transparency.

Sincerely,



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Kevin Kiley, Chairman, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary,
and Secondary Education
The Honorable Rick Allen, Chairman, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor,
and Pensions
The Honorable Burgess Owens, Chairman, Subcommittee on Higher Education and
Workforce Development
The Honorable Ryan Mackenzie, Chairman, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections

⁵ *Supra* note 2, HHS Reduction in Force FAQs.

⁶ Cheyenne Haslett, *RFK Jr. announces HHS reinstating some programs, employees cut by mistake*, ABC (Apr. 3, 2025, 4:11 PM), <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/rfk-jr-announces-hhs-reinstating-programs-employees-cut/story?id=120463293>.