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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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April 8, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman
Committee on Education and Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walberg:

As the Democratic members of the Committee on Education and Workforce (the Committee), we write to request that the Committee immediately hold a hearing to examine the proposed restructuring of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced on March 27, 2025.¹ When factoring in the previous early retirement and Fork in the Road efforts, HHS' workforce is being reduced by a total of 20,000 full-time employees, or 25 percent.² The decimation of the agency's workforce and the proposed elimination or consolidation of divisions will cause direct harm to the nation's children, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and workers. Per Rule X of the House of Representatives, it is the Committee's jurisdictional and oversight responsibility to hold a hearing to examine the actions taken by the Department and the implications for the ability of the Department to meet its statutory obligations.

Our information, to date, relies on press reports, including recent reports that many of the employees terminated last week may have been done so in error.³ The Committee has not received any information from the Department directly on the impacts of the reorganization and the mass layoffs on the divisions and personnel that are instrumental in delivering services authorized by laws within the jurisdiction of the Committee. For example, the Committee has not been provided any rationale or information regarding the decision to eliminate the Administration for Community Living (ACL), which plays a vital role in supporting older adults and people with disabilities and implements programs that enhance independence, such as those authorized under the *Older Americans Act* and the *Rehabilitation Act*. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)—which plays an important role in protecting workers' health by conducting research on worker safety and health and developing recommendations on occupational injury and illness prevention—is one of the five agencies that will be consolidated into the new Administration for a Healthy America (AHA),⁴ and yet the details on the new AHA as well as the fate of NIOSH's current responsibilities are unknown. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) implements popular programs such as Head Start, family violence prevention programs, and heating and cooling assistance. However, ACF has also inexplicably been

¹ *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].

² *Id.*

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

⁴ Reorganization Announcement, *supra* note 1.

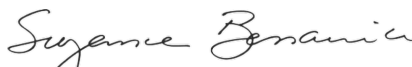
targeted by staff cuts.⁵ Even more concerning is that ACF appears to be assuming additional and undefined responsibilities under the reorganization, despite its already diminished capacity to carry out its current vital functions.

Given so many unanswered questions, we write requesting a Committee hearing to examine the full extent of the Department's restructuring and reduction in force, the purported rationale for these changes, and the expected impacts of these changes on Americans' health and wellbeing. Congress and the American public deserve transparency on how these changes will impact the services HHS provides.

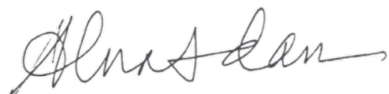
Sincerely,



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Ranking Member



SUZANNE BONAMICI
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Early
Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary
Education



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Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Higher
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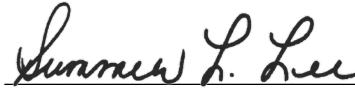
⁵ Alana Semuels, *The Trump Administration Just Gutted U.S. Health Institutions. What Will That Mean for Americans?*, TIME (Apr. 1, 2025 3:33 PM), https://time.com/7273450/trump-administration-gut-health-institutions/?itm_source=parsely-api.

The Honorable Tim Walberg

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GREG CASAR



SUMMER LEE



JOHN W. MANNION

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 Worker Protections