

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-3641
Minority (202) 225-2927

September 26, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

We write to supplement recent requests relating to the termination of former CDC Director, Dr. Susan Monarez, due to recent testimony and an explosive claim at a recent Senate committee hearing. During a hearing before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension (Senate HELP Committee), Senator Markwayne Mullin claimed that a meeting between you and then-Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr. Susan Monarez, was “a recorded meeting.”¹ Senator Mullin repeatedly attacked Dr. Monarez’s credibility claiming that he knew “how that conversation went” and that Dr. Monarez was not being honest.²

After claiming that a meeting was recorded, Senator Mullin later claimed to the press that there was not a recording.³ Setting aside the credibility questions that arise from a Senator making such a claim only to later withdraw it, this raises new questions about what information is in the possession of HHS that would help Congress and the American people to understand the rationale for the CDC Director’s termination. For example, if, as you have claimed, Dr. Monarez did indeed tell you that she was not trustworthy such a recording would bolster what remains of your credibility. Congress is entitled to this information in order to carry out its oversight responsibilities.

Given the testimony in the Senate HELP Committee and the remarkable claim by Senator Mullin that an internal meeting between HHS officials was recorded—and that he either had the recording or had knowledge of the contents of the recording—we supplement the requests in our

¹ *Fired CDC Leader Susan Monarez Told Senators About Pressure From RFK Jr.*, The Washington Post (Sept. 17, 2025).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

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September 11 letter with the following questions. In your response to that letter, please also provide the following:

1. Provide a copy of any recording of any of the meetings between you and Dr. Monarez, including the meetings that reportedly took place on August 25. For each such recording also include:
 - a. Original metadata for the recording;
 - b. The identity of the individual that made the recording;
 - c. The names and positions of all individuals present at the recorded meeting; and
 - d. Which of the individuals in attendance at the meeting were aware of and consented to the meeting being recorded.
2. Provide a copy of any notes, memoranda, or other documentation of meetings between you and Dr. Monarez, including the August 25 meetings.
3. Provide a copy of any policy that relates to recording of internal meetings.

Relevant responsive materials should be sought from your files and all other meeting attendees, including:

- Jim O'Neill
- Matt Buckham
- Stefanie Spear
- Robert Foster
- Kenneth Callahan

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If you have any questions about this request, please contact the Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-2927.

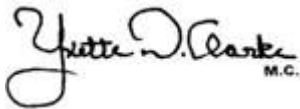
Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member



Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health



Yvette Clarke
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman

The Honorable H. Morgan Griffith
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health

The Honorable John Joyce
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations