

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH 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) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

December 4, 2017

Dr. Jason Providakes
President and Chief Executive Officer
The MITRE Corporation
7515 Colshire Drive
McLean, VA 22102

Dear Dr. Providakes:

I write to you with concerns regarding potential conflicts of interest and impartiality in the reported rewrite of Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rules. *Politico* recently reported that private sector consultants are being subcontracted through The MITRE Corporation (MITRE) to consult on the rewrite of certain CMS regulations.¹

The subcontracting of private sector consultants to assist in writing regulations raises a number of issues, including possible conflicts of interest, given the number of parties that could be affected by these rule changes. The Committee has a longstanding interest in ensuring that our government operates in a transparent and impartial manner.

Given the importance of these rules and the potentially far-reaching consequences of any changes made to them, I request a briefing on MITRE's involvement in CMS's rulemaking process. As part of this briefing, I would appreciate MITRE explaining what steps it has taken to ensure that the contracting work it performs for the federal government is free of undue influence. This would include any information concerning protocols MITRE has in place to screen prospective subcontractors and consultants for potential conflicts of interest, as well as measures MITRE takes to ensure that the subcontractors it hires are ultimately able to serve free of conflicts of interest.

¹ *How the Trump administration is reshaping health care – without Congress*, Politico (Sept. 13, 2017).

Please respond to this inquiry as soon as possible, but no later than December 18, 2017. Should you have any questions, please contact Miles Lichtman with the Democratic Committee Staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Pallone, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member