

September 12, 2025

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, MD
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Sanders:

As leaders of national organizations focused on protecting the health of the country, we thank you for your announcement of planned oversight hearings over the abrupt dismissal of Dr. Susan Monarez, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the subsequent resignations of multiple senior leaders at the agency. These departures represent a serious threat to the health and security of our nation. A full, transparent, and public accounting of what transpired is a necessary first step to ensure agencies are providing the best scientific information to Americans, restore trust in our public health agencies, and prevent further damage to the country's health defenses.

Congress has tasked the Director of CDC, by statute (42 U.S. Code § 242c), with clear authorities and responsibilities. These authorities include the prevention and control of diseases and the management and operations of CDC. In addition to its internal operations, CDC bolsters public health and health care nationwide by issuing guidance to health professionals and the public, operating key laboratories, conducting and supporting research, disseminating data, distributing public health funding appropriated by Congress, and providing technical assistance and on-the-ground support to states, localities, tribes, and territories. Without support from the CDC—both in funding and scientific expertise—state, local, Tribal, and territorial health departments will be left without the resources they need to protect Americans' health. Removing Dr. Monarez, who was confirmed by the Senate just weeks ago, leaves the agency without clear direction and undermines the agency's work to protect the health of individuals in every community.

The resignation letters of several senior CDC experts describe significant vulnerabilities in the nation's infectious disease prevention and control enterprise. These allegations are serious and very concerning. The letters describe substantial interference with the work of CDC's infectious disease centers and well-established science.¹ The agency's workforce must be empowered to follow the best available science in its research, guidance, and policy. Interference with CDC

¹ Faust, J. MD. "Breaking News: Read three top CDC officials' resignation emails." *Inside Medicine*, August 27, 2025. <https://insidemedicine.substack.com/p/breaking-news-read-three-top-cdc>

data and recommendations—whether real or perceived—will further erode trust in CDC and compromise the nation’s health security.

Given your leadership on the Congressional committee with jurisdiction over CDC and public health, we urge you to take the following steps to protect the scientific integrity of our nation’s health protection agency:

- 1) Conduct bipartisan Committee investigations into the circumstances leading to the dismissal of Dr. Monarez and resignations of senior leaders, including the concerns expressed by senior officials regarding vaccine recommendations;
- 2) Hold hearings with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., including related to public health vulnerabilities identified in the resignation letters; and
- 3) Take appropriate corresponding action to prevent similar instability in the future.

Your leadership is critical to ensuring our nation is back on track to be a global leader in health and science and protecting the nation’s health. We stand ready to assist you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

AcademyHealth

Access Care Anywhere

Advocates for Better Children's Diets

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

American Academy of Pediatrics

American College Health Association

American College of Physicians

American Families for Vaccines

American Lung Association

American Medical Women's Association

American Public Health Association

American Society for Microbiology

American Society of Hematology

American Statistical Association

American Thoracic Society

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)

Association for Prevention Teaching and Research

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists

Association of Public Health Nurses

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

Big Cities Health Coalition

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

Center for Science in the Public Interest

ChangeLab Solutions

Defend Public Health

Families USA

Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice

Grey Haves

Health E Strategies LLC

Health Resources in Action

HIV Medicine Association

Infectious Diseases Society of America

International Association for Indigenous Aging

LGBTQ Health Caucus

Little Pineapple Collaborative

NASTAD

National Association for Doctors of Public Health

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Association of Public Safety Infection Control Officers (NAPSICO)

National Association of School Nurses

National Black Nurses Association, Inc

National Foundation for Infectious Diseases

National Kidney Foundation

National Network of Public Health Institutes

National Nurses United

The Obesity Society

The Praxis Project

Prevent Blindness

Prevention Institute

Public Health Foundation

Resolve to Save Lives

Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Society for Prevention Research

Society for Public Health Education

Society of Behavioral Medicine

Stop TB USA

Trust for America's Health

Truth Initiative

U.S. Alcohol Policy Alliance

Vaccinate Your Family