

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

Your campaign against the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is devastating the world's premier public health agency. The damage from that campaign continues to be compounded by the rank incompetence with which you are carrying it out.

During your tenure as the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), the CDC has now lost nearly a quarter of its workforce. On October 10, 2025, according to reports and court filings, 1,760 HHS employees, which included more than 1,300 CDC scientists, doctors, and health officials, received "reduction in force" notices — reportedly including leaders of the federal measles response team, a group of scientists working to contain the Ebola virus in Congo, epidemiologists specializing in combating outbreaks and the office that assembles the CDC's weekly scientific journal.

It was then reported that nearly half of the employees fired last weekend — including the group of scientists working to contain the Ebola virus in Congo, epidemiologists specializing in combating outbreaks and the office that assembles the CDC's weekly scientific journal — were terminated "by mistake" and the Administration is scrambling to rehire them.

This isn't the first time the Trump Administration under your incompetent leadership indiscriminately fired CDC staff and then scrambled to rehire them. In June, 400 CDC employees responsible for tracking and preventing infectious disease were rehired after their termination in another round of mass firings.

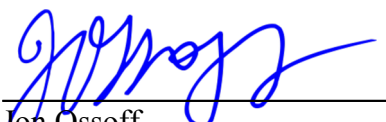
Your abrupt reversals of some of these most foolish mass firings do not mitigate the overwhelming damage you are inflicting on the CDC. But they do raise fundamental and obvious questions about the process, or lack thereof, informing your haphazard personnel decisions. Please immediately send our offices a full explanation for these "accidental" firings and the internal processes at the Department of Health and Human Services that led to them.

The CDC is now in disarray and its workforce deeply demoralized. That means the United States and the American people are less safe from deadly disease. Most of the agency's top leadership has resigned, unable to lead the CDC's mission with you atop the Department of Health and Human Services. Based upon your public comments, your reckless demolition of an essential public health agency appears motivated to significant extent by personal animus and a failure to

grasp basic facts about its work. That is unacceptable for the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Please provide the requested information to our offices by October 27, 2025.

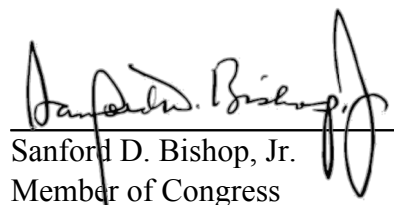
Sincerely,



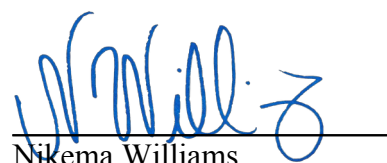
Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress