

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 7, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

We urgently write to request an update on the status of building repairs security improvements necessary for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Eight months ago, CDC employees in Atlanta, Georgia were horrifically attacked. On August 8, 2025, a gunman approached the Clifton campus and fired hundreds of rounds into six buildings that pierced 150 blast-resistant windows.^{1,2} The gunman tragically killed responding DeKalb County Police Officer David Rose. Thanks to his bravery, and the many other law enforcement officials who rushed to respond to the shooting, the threat was neutralized and the campus was secured. In the aftermath, images of hundreds of the bullet holes in the windows of multiple windows were made public. Shockingly, those bullet holes remain today. This is unacceptable. You must take immediate action to repair and safeguard the CDC Atlanta campus.

In the wake of the shooting, we called on CDC's then Acting Director James O'Neill to conduct a thorough analysis of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and CDC's security protocols, to work with the Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigations to identify any threats to the CDC federal workforce and establish additional security protocols, and to pause any terminations or restructuring of CDC divisions and staff.³ We received no response to our Congressional inquiry. Instead, CDC leadership required its personnel to return to work within two weeks of the shooting, leaving the bullet-damaged buildings and windows unrepaired.⁴ Two months after the shooting, more than 1,300 CDC scientists, doctors, and health officials were fired.⁵

Congress appropriated Fiscal Year 2026 funding for HHS two months ago and directed HHS to fund \$100 million in necessary repairs and security improvements at the CDC campus.⁶ While we appreciate CDC employees have reportedly been notified that repairs will in fact happen, we remain concerned about the timeline of the work.⁷

¹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj0y796qpp9o>

² <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/in-cdc-attack-man-fired-180-shots-breaking-150-windows>

³ <https://www.warnock.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/09.11.2025-Warnock-Ossoff-Letter-about-Support-for-CDC-post-August-Attack.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.govexec.com/workforce/2025/09/cdc-employees-given-2-weeks-return-headquarters-following-recent-shooting/407834/>


⁵ <https://www.npr.org/2025/10/14/nx-s1-5574469/cdc-shutdown-federal-layoffs>

⁶ https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20260119/DEF_LHHS_HS_THUD - JES - Division B - LHHS - 1-19-2026 - Reduced File Size.pdf

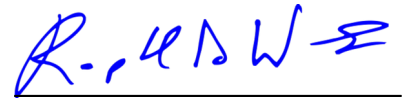
⁷ <https://apnews.com/article/cdc-windows-shooting-9ac9ee4657c1e15e5033d28a0a9a89ff>

Please respond in writing within the next 30 calendar days, providing details of the work to be completed, the timeline in which that work will begin and is projected to be completed by, and the measures HHS has taken to implement security improvements for the CDC Atlanta campus. Further, we request a detailed briefing for our legislative staff on the progress of restoring the CDC campus. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator