

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

March 19, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

We write to express our concern regarding the recent announcement that the Trump Administration is planning to shut down six regional offices in the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of General Counsel, including the Region V office in Chicago, Illinois.¹ As Members who represent states within Region V, which serves Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, we know the value this office provides to patients, providers, payers, and American taxpayers, so we urge you to immediately reverse this decision.

The planned shutdown of more than half of the regional offices would leave only four offices to serve a country of over 330 million people and directly undermine HHS's capacity to improve America's health and effectively safeguard taxpayer dollars.² In addition to being a shortsighted effort that will severely hinder HHS's ability to fulfill its mission, the planned office closures stand in direct opposition to the Trump Administration's purported focus on combatting "waste, fraud, and abuse."³ In Fiscal Year 2023, HHS retrieved \$1.8 billion from civil health care fraud settlements and judgments under the False Claims Act, in addition to other judgments secured under other federal statutes.⁴ In total, HHS enforcement and compliance efforts secured the return of more than \$3.4 billion to the federal government or private individuals. If the Trump Administration genuinely seeks to prevent fraud and recover funds from bad actors, it should increase—not gut—HHS's compliance and enforcement efforts and maintain offices, like the Office of General Counsel, that directly serve this goal.

We therefore urge you to reconsider this plan to shutter vital regional offices, including the Region V office in Chicago, and instead work towards ensuring all offices remain fully operational and adequately resourced to do their jobs. The American people deserve better than this. If you are truly committed to improving the efficiency of our health care system, making America healthy, and rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse, we hope you will prioritize the

¹ [Trump Administration Plans To Close HHS Legal Offices That Fight Fraud | HuffPost Latest News](#)

² [HHS Office of General Counsel Announces Reorganization Effort | HHS.gov](#)

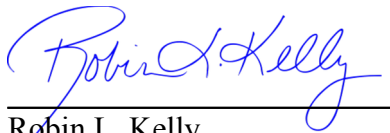
³ [Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Reins in Government Waste —](#)

⁴ <https://oig.hhs.gov/reports/all/2024/health-care-fraud-and-abuse-control-program-report-fiscal-year-2023/>

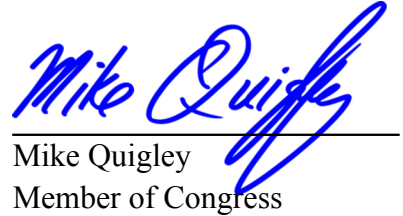
enforcement of our nation's health laws and the standards that help ensure the safety and dignity of our nation's most vulnerable.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your response and to your leadership in ensuring that HHS can continue to fulfill its important mission.

Sincerely,



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



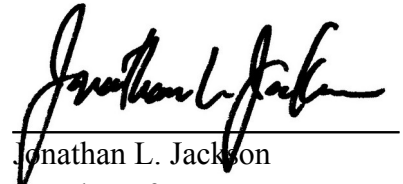
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



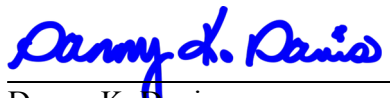
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



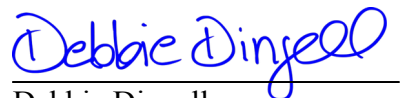
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
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Bradley Scott Schneider
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Bill Foster
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Greg Landsman
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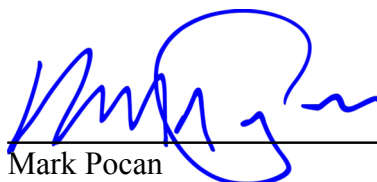
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



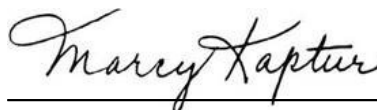
Andre Carson
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Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
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Lauren Underwood
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