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Congress of the United States
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October 21, 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:

I am writing to express serious concern over the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) decision to rescind the \$101 million penalty previously imposed on the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) for misused Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds.

As you are aware, these funds were at the center of the largest welfare scandal in Mississippi's history. Money meant to support the poorest families in our state was instead misused and misdirected. For an Administration that has emphasized accountability and the responsible use of federal resources, this decision raises serious concerns about consistency and proper oversight.

It appears the Department has decided to rescind the penalty letter issued to MDHS without sufficient transparency. Therefore, I am formally requesting copies of all materials related to this decision, including but not limited to:

- All internal and external correspondence, including emails and memoranda
- Telephone logs, meeting notes, and minutes
- Any other documents, analyses, or materials used to reach this determination

This information should be provided no later than **November 3, 2025**. If your department requires additional time, please provide a detailed explanation and an anticipated timeline for completion.

The people of Mississippi and the American taxpayers deserve to know why the federal government is reversing course in a case involving such significant misuse of public funds.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress