



June 8, 2023

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup
Chairman
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Wenstrup:

We are in receipt of your June 1, 2023, letter to Department of Health and Human Services (HHS or Department) Secretary Xavier Becerra regarding your investigation into the origins of COVID-19. I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Secretary.

HHS recognizes and appreciates the importance of congressional oversight and is committed to continuing to work with you regarding your inquiries. As you know, since the outset of your investigation in February 2023, the Department has undertaken extensive efforts to cooperate with your numerous oversight requests in good faith. This includes producing thousands of pages of documents responsive to your requests, including priority requests that your staff identified. We intend to continue engaging in the constitutionally mandated accommodation process and cooperating with your inquiry.

Your June 1 letter claims the Department has “refused” to provide certain documents to the select subcommittee. This is incorrect. At no point during this engagement, or in any of our other extensive engagements with the select subcommittee, has the Department “stonewall[ed]” or “obstruct[ed]” the select subcommittee’s inquiry. To the contrary, the Department has a demonstrated record of working diligently to address the select subcommittee’s requests.

As you acknowledged, your most recent letter restates document requests that were included in your February 13 letter. These requests had not been previously identified as priorities by your staff, and the Department has been allocating its limited resources to address priority requests that were articulated by the select subcommittee. The Department is interpreting your June 1 letter as specifying your current priority requests. Accordingly, and in a further show of good faith, the Department is producing documents today responsive to priority requests previously identified by the select subcommittee, as well as materials responsive to priorities that were identified in your June 1 letter. The Department anticipates that it will continue making productions in response to your February 13 letter and looks forward to further discussions with your staff regarding the select subcommittee’s new priority requests.

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If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legislation at (202) 690-7627.

Sincerely,

Melanie Anne Egorin

Melanie Anne Egorin, PhD
Assistant Secretary for Legislation

cc:

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
Ranking Member
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic