

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

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November 12, 2021

Dr. Robert R. Redfield
Baltimore, MD

Dear Dr. Redfield:

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis is investigating the federal government's response to the coronavirus pandemic in order to better understand what went wrong, identify ways to improve the country's response, and determine what corrective steps are necessary to ensure our nation is better prepared for any future public health crisis. Our investigations have found that the Trump Administration engaged in a persistent pattern of political interference in the pandemic response and took actions that allowed the virus to spread in an attempt to advance former President Trump's electoral prospects. As the former Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and a member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, you played a key role in events under investigation. I write to renew the Select Subcommittee's request that you appear for a transcribed interview regarding these matters, which the Trump Administration blocked last year in an attempt to obstruct congressional oversight of former President Trump's failed pandemic response efforts.¹ I also request any documents in your possession related to the federal government's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Trump Administration's use of the pandemic to advance political goals manifested itself most acutely in its efforts to manipulate and undermine CDC's scientific work.² Through its investigations, the Select Subcommittee has uncovered a staggering pattern of political

¹ Letter from Chairman James E. Clyburn, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, to Secretary Alex M. Azar II, Department of Health and Human Services, and Director Robert R. Redfield, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Dec. 10, 2020) (online at <https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/2020-12-10.Clyburn%20to%20HHS%20re%20Redfield%20%281%29.pdf>).

² See, e.g., Letter from Chairman James E. Clyburn, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, to Secretary Xavier Becerra, Department of Health and Human Services, and Director Rochelle P. Walensky, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (July 26, 2021) (online at <https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/2021-07-26.Select%20Sub%20to%20Becerra%20and%20Walensky%20re%20Interview%20Requests.pdf>); Letter from Chairman James E. Clyburn, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, to Chief of Staff Ronald A. Klain, The White House (Feb. 8, 2021) (online at <https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/2021-02-08.Clyburn%20to%20Klain%20re%20WH%20Failures%20on%20Pandemic%20.pdf>); Letter from Chairman James E. Clyburn, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, to Secretary Alex M. Azar II, Department of Health and Human Services, and Director Robert R. Redfield, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Dec. 21, 2020) (online at https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/2020-12-21.Clyburn%20to%20Redfield%20and%20Azar%20re%20Subpoena%20FINAL%20_0.pdf).

interference from Trump Administration officials in critical aspects of CDC's pandemic response efforts. For example, the Select Subcommittee has obtained new details on the Trump White House's decision to block CDC scientists from speaking to the public for the first three months of the pandemic, including that White House staff refused at least one CDC request to provide a public briefing in early April 2020 that would have disclosed information on the state of the pandemic, a new CDC recommendation to wear cloth face coverings, and new evidence of pediatric cases and deaths from the coronavirus.³ The Select Subcommittee has also obtained new details on the extent to which Trump Administration officials altered or blocked public health guidance drafted by CDC scientists, including the central role of former Office of Management and Budget (OMB) officials in these efforts.⁴ Finally, as the Select Subcommittee revealed last year, political appointees in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) attempted to make changes to at least 13 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWR) related to the pandemic, on one occasion asserting that a report was "designed to hurt this President [sic]."⁵ Two CDC scientists have now told the Select Subcommittee that, following this incident, they were instructed to delete an email reflecting these efforts, and that they understood this instruction to come from you.⁶ These incidents degraded every major facet of the prior Administration's public health response and materially damaged the standing of the premier public health agency in the eyes of the world.⁷

As CDC Director, you appear to have been unwilling or unable to prevent this unprecedented pattern of political interference. In fact, during a recent interview with the Select Subcommittee, former CDC Principal Deputy Director Anne Schuchat acknowledged that you were "put in many impossible situations" due to political pressure that you faced while

³ Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Transcribed Interview of Kate Galatas (Sept. 20, 2021).

⁴ Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, *The Trump Administration's Pattern of Political Interference in the Nation's Coronavirus Response* (July 26, 2021) (online at <https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/7.26.2021%20Timeline%20of%20Political%20Interference%20-%20final.pdf>) (incidents 18, 19, 26, 33, 42, 65).

⁵ Letter from Chairman James E. Clyburn, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, to Secretary Alex M. Azar II, Department of Health and Human Services, and Director Robert R. Redfield, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Dec. 21, 2020) (online at https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/2020-12-21.Clyburn%20to%20Redfield%20and%20Azar%20re%20Subpoena%20FINAL%20_0.pdf); *see also* Letter from Chairman James E. Clyburn, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, to Secretary Alex M. Azar II, Department of Health and Human Services, and Director Robert R. Redfield, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Dec. 10, 2020) (online at <https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/2020-12-10.Clyburn%20to%20HHS%20re%20Redfield%20%281%29.pdf>).

⁶ Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Transcribed Interview of Dr. Charlotte Kent (Dec. 7, 2020) (online at https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/Kent%20Transcript_Redacted.pdf); Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Transcribed Interview of Dr. Christine Casey (Oct. 28, 2021).

⁷ Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, *The Trump Administration's Pattern of Political Interference in the Nation's Coronavirus Response* (July 26, 2021) (online at <https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/7.26.2021%20Timeline%20of%20Political%20Interference%20-%20final.pdf>).

overseeing the pandemic response.⁸ Dr. Schuchat, other current and former CDC officials, and former White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Deborah Birx have shed new light on the ways in which CDC was undermined during this critical time. As the former Director, it is imperative that the Select Subcommittee hear from you to understand your involvement in these events and how the decisions you made or otherwise witnessed affected the nation's response to the pandemic.

White House Efforts to Block CDC Briefings May Have Kept Critical Information from Public View

The Select Subcommittee has gathered new evidence regarding the Trump Administration's efforts to interfere with the work of CDC scientists during the crucial early months of the pandemic. Previous reporting indicated that former President Trump was angered by remarks delivered by Dr. Nancy Messonnier, former CDC Director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, at a briefing on February 25, 2020, which Dr. Messonnier confirmed during an interview with the Select Subcommittee.⁹ Dr. Messonnier stated that she received phone calls from you and former HHS Secretary Alex Azar following the February 25 telebriefing and that she felt "upset" by these conversations. Dr. Messonnier clarified that her intention "was not and has never been to scare the public" but rather "was certainly to get the public's attention about the likelihood that COVID was going to be at the U.S. and that it was going to spread and that we thought that there was a high risk that it would be disruptive."¹⁰ Dr. Schuchat explained during her interview with the Select Subcommittee that she was asked to participate in a hastily assembled briefing following Dr. Messonnier's remarks, which she later came to understand as intended to blunt the impact of Dr. Messonnier's statements:

The impression that I was given was that the reaction to the morning briefing was quite volatile, and having another briefing—you know, later I think I got the impression that having another briefing might get—you know, there was nothing new to report, but get additional voices out there talking about that situation.¹¹

Less than two weeks after Dr. Messonnier's comments, CDC stopped holding public briefings entirely for more than three months—a period that coincided with the rapid explosion in coronavirus cases across the country.¹² Multiple officials from CDC and HHS confirmed to the Select Subcommittee during recent interviews that White House officials blocked CDC

⁸ Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Transcribed Interview of Dr. Anne Schuchat (Oct. 1, 2020).

⁹ *A New Documentary Shows How a Top CDC Official Who Warned Americans About the Coronavirus Promptly Vanished from Public View*, Insider (Oct. 20, 2020) (online at www.businessinsider.com/cdc-official-warned-us-coronavirus-was-silenced-documentary-2020-10).

¹⁰ Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Transcribed Interview of Dr. Nancy Messonnier (Oct. 8, 2021).

¹¹ Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Transcribed Interview of Dr. Anne Schuchat (Oct. 1, 2020).

¹² *CDC to Resume Regular Coronavirus Briefings After Being Sidelined by White House*, CNN (May 30, 2020) (online at www.cnn.com/2020/05/30/politics/cdc-coronavirus-briefings-resume/index.html).

requests to conduct public briefings during this time, including Kate Galatas, Deputy Director of the Office of the Associate Director for Communication at CDC.¹³

On one occasion, Devin O'Malley, a Special Advisor and Press Secretary with the Office of the Vice President, refused CDC's request to hold a briefing in early April 2020 that would have shared information on the then-current state of the pandemic, a new CDC recommendation to wear cloth face coverings, and new evidence of pediatric cases and the deaths of at least three children from the coronavirus that had occurred by that point. Ms. Galatas stated that the reason provided for this denial was that it was perceived to be "duplicative of what the White House task force was doing when they had their press briefings." Had CDC been allowed to provide briefings, Ms. Galatas said that CDC would have gone "deeper" into topics that "were important from a public health perspective." She said: "Having watched many of those White House telebriefings, they just covered other things, and not always just the CDC piece."¹⁴

CDC officials confirmed to the Select Subcommittee that the Trump Administration's blocking of CDC briefings may have impaired the pandemic response. When asked if White House Coronavirus Task Force briefings were an adequate substitute for CDC briefings, Dr. Schuchat replied: "[M]y sense of the ones that I saw were that they were not." Dr. Schuchat explained, for example, that April 3, 2020, remarks by former President Trump at a White House Coronavirus Task Force briefing discussing CDC's guidance on cloth face coverings were "potentially confusing to the public and may have reduced use of a preventable tool that we had before we had vaccines or many other means to reduce spread."¹⁵

Dr. Schuchat and Ms. Galatas also informed the Select Subcommittee that many requests from media to interview CDC officials were denied during this period. When asked about press reports that CDC officials felt "muzzled" and that the agency's efforts to respond to the pandemic "were hamstrung by a White House whose decisions are driven by politics rather than science," Dr. Schuchat said: "That is the feeling that we had, many of us had."¹⁶ These concerns from top CDC officials raise further questions about your role in the silencing of CDC during this crucial period, including whether you assented to this decision or took any steps to try to address it.

¹³ See, e.g., Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Transcribed Interview of Kate Galatas (Sept. 20, 2021); Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Transcribed Interview of Dr. Anne Schuchat (Oct. 1, 2020); Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Transcribed Interview of Bill Hall (Aug. 31, 2021).

¹⁴ Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Transcribed Interview of Kate Galatas (Sept. 20, 2021).

¹⁵ Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Transcribed Interview of Dr. Anne Schuchat (Oct. 1, 2021). Ms. Galatas also acknowledged that it would have been helpful for CDC to be able to share information about the coronavirus with the public, noting: "From that public health perspective, I think it would have been important for timely information to be kept coming from CDC." When asked whether the decision to block CDC's briefings may have undermined efforts to save lives during the pandemic, Ms. Galatas replied: "I think it could have helped." Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Transcribed Interview of Kate Galatas (Sept. 20, 2021).

¹⁶ Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Transcribed Interview of Dr. Anne Schuchat (Oct. 1, 2021); see also *"We've Been Muzzled": CDC Sources Say White House Putting Politics Ahead of Science*, CNN (May 20, 2020) (online at www.cnn.com/2020/05/20/politics/coronavirus-travel-alert-cdc-white-house-tensions-invs/index.html).

New Evidence Highlights Central Role of Trump OMB Officials in Altering CDC Public Health Guidance

Documents obtained by the Select Subcommittee shed new light on previous reports that at least 12 different public health guidelines drafted by CDC scientists were altered by White House officials or other political appointees during the first year of the pandemic.¹⁷ The Select Subcommittee has uncovered new evidence indicating that Trump OMB officials—including former OMB Director Russell Vought, former Director of the Domestic Policy Council Joe Grogan, and former Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Administrator (OIRA) Paul Ray—played a central role in these efforts, including making substantive changes to weaken CDC’s public health guidance and taking steps to circumvent CDC from the process of finalizing guidance.

Dr. Birx confirmed during a transcribed interview that CDC’s guidance went through a review process at OMB and OIRA prior to issuance.¹⁸ In the spring of 2020, it appears that CDC officials may have attempted to insulate the agency’s public health guidance from potential interference by White House and other political appointees, but that Mr. Vought pushed back. On April 24, 2020, Mr. Vought wrote to you and other senior Trump Administration officials about CDC’s draft meatpacking guidance, stating:

Bob—Your team (Kyle McGowan) is saying that they are not going to send the meat packing guidance through the normal OIRA channel in order to serve Taskforce. We need to make sure it comes in as normal to run our clearance process. Can you make sure your team knows that? We want to process it over the weekend to be ready for early next week.¹⁹

Later on April 24, an OMB official distributed the draft meatpacking guidance to nearly two dozen White House and OMB officials asking for comments, stating:

Please note that all comments and edits will be considered take-or-leave, subject to agency adjudication, unless you clearly mark in your transmission email that a specific comment/edit is critical and supported at the Deputy Secretary-level.²⁰

¹⁷ Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, *The Trump Administration’s Pattern of Political Interference in the Nation’s Coronavirus Response* (July 26, 2021) (online at <https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/7.26.2021%20Timeline%20of%20Political%20Interference%20-%20final.pdf>) (incidents 7, 12, 16, 18, 19, 26, 33, 42, 65, 71, 75, 80).

¹⁸ Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, *Transcribed Interview of Dr. Deborah Birx* (Oct. 12, 2020).

¹⁹ Email from Director Russell Vought, Office of Management and Budget, to Director Robert R. Redfield, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, et al. (Apr. 24, 2020) (OMB-SSCC-000843 – 44) (online at https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/04.24.2020%20OMB-SSCC-000843%20-%20844_Redacted.pdf).

²⁰ Email from Policy Analyst, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, to Denzel McGuire, Program Associate Director - Education, Labor and Income Management, Office of Management and Budget, et al. (Apr. 24, 2020) (OMB-SSCC-000846 – 48) (online at https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/04.25.2020%20OMB-SSCC-000846%20-%20848_Redacted.pdf).

According to public reporting, you were instructed to soften the language in the meatpacking guidance and reduce CDC's recommendations to suggestions by Vice President Pence's Chief of Staff, Marc Short, following an intervention by Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Purdue. You reportedly confided to one of Vice President Pence's aides that you felt you were in an impossible position, but ultimately agreed to make the changes.²¹

When CDC officials declined to accept certain proposed comments on draft guidance for faith communities, Trump White House officials took steps to circumvent CDC and discussed removing the agency from the process of finalizing public health guidance altogether. On April 25, 2020, Jennie Lichter, Deputy Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, circulated edits she made "to the faith community guidance" to other White House officials, stating: "CDC appears to have accepted virtually none of the comments or edits submitted by me, DOJ, or anyone else on this very sensitive section last time, and that is unacceptable." In response, Mr. Grogan suggested CDC should be cut out of the guidance finalization process, writing: "Actually I am not sure these should go back to cdc. I think we should make the edits and then a small group of principals finalize." Mr. Vought "[a]greed" with Mr. Grogan, noting CDC "didn't take any of my edits either."²² The following day, Mr. Ray circulated the "EOP-preferred version" of the faith community guidance to other officials in the Executive Office of the President. He noted that the "drafts are the product of the agency resolution processes held over the weekend (with the exception of the faith-based guidance; I am circulating the EOP-preferred version of that guidance, with which CDC has maintained disagreement)."²³

I am very troubled by the concerted attempts made by White House officials and other political appointees to interfere with CDC's public health guidance during the pandemic. Questions remain regarding your knowledge and role in these efforts, including whether you assented to the changes and whether you took any steps to try to ensure accurate scientific guidance was provided to the American people.

Questions Remain Surrounding Efforts to Alter MMWRs, Possible Destruction of Evidence

Last year, the Select Subcommittee requested that you sit for a transcribed interview following an alarming revelation that you may have taken steps to conceal and destroy evidence

²¹ Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, *The Trump Administration's Pattern of Political Interference in the Nation's Coronavirus Response* (July 26, 2021) (online at <https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/7.26.2021%20Timeline%20of%20Political%20Interference%20-%20final.pdf>) (incident 18).

²² Email from Administrator Paul Ray, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, to Director Russell Vought, Office of Management and Budget, and Director Joe Grogan, Domestic Policy Council (Apr. 25, 2020) (OMB-SSCC-000846 – 48) (online at https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/04.25.2020%20OMB-SSCC-000846%20-%20848_Redacted.pdf).

²³ Email from Administrator Paul Ray, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, to White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Deborah Birx, The White House, et al. (Apr. 26, 2020) (OMB-SSCC-000939) (online at <https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/04.26.2020%20OMB-SSC-000939.pdf>).

of political interference at CDC. Dr. Charlotte Kent, Chief of the Scientific Publications Branch and Editor-in-Chief of CDC's MMWR, stated that she was instructed to delete an August 8, 2020, email in which HHS political appointee Dr. Paul Alexander demanded that CDC stop the publication of truthful scientific reports he believed were damaging to President Trump—and that she understood this instruction came from you.²⁴ Following this disclosure, the Trump Administration obstructed the Select Subcommittee's investigation and blocked you from appearing for an interview with the Select Subcommittee, leaving important questions about your involvement in these events unanswered. Since then, the Select Subcommittee has obtained new information underscoring the need for complete transparency about what transpired during this time.

Dr. Christine Casey, Editor of CDC's MMWR Serials, corroborated Dr. Kent's recollection during a recent interview with the Select Subcommittee. Dr. Casey stated that she received Dr. Alexander's August 8, 2020, email late at night and found it to be "highly unusual and quite concerning," explaining that Dr. Alexander's demand to put an immediate stop on MMWR reports was "unprecedented" and "breached" the "production firewall" put in place to protect the independence and integrity of the MMWR. Dr. Casey was so concerned that she called and woke up Dr. Michael Iademarco—CDC's then-Director of the Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services who oversaw the MMWR—at approximately 2 a.m. Dr. Casey and Dr. Iademarco decided to reach out to you to determine their next steps.²⁵

An email obtained by the Select Subcommittee confirms that Dr. Casey contacted you and other senior CDC officials, including Dr. Iademarco, on August 9, 2020, to discuss how to address Dr. Alexander's demand to stop the publication of MMWRs. Dr. Casey offered in the email "to discuss next steps with you and OD [Office of the Director] leadership (copied) in the morning."²⁶

Dr. Casey told the Select Subcommittee that she connected with Dr. Iademarco mid-morning on August 9, 2020:

[Dr. Michael Iademarco] informed me that he had communicated with the director, and that I was to—that the action of doing nothing was what we were

²⁴ Letter from Chairman James E. Clyburn, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, to Secretary Alex M. Azar II, Department of Health and Human Services, and Director Robert R. Redfield, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Dec. 10, 2020) (online at <https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/2020-12-10.Clyburn%20to%20HHS%20re%20Redfield%20%281%29.pdf>).

²⁵ Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Transcribed Interview of Dr. Christine Casey (Oct. 28, 2021).

²⁶ Email from Christine Casey, Editor of the MMWR Serials, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to Director Robert R. Redfield, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, et al. (Aug. 9, 2020) (SSCC-0022285 – 89) (online at https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/08.09.2020%20SSCC00022285%20-%20289_Redacted.pdf).

going to do. And he asked me to delete the email, instructed me to delete the email.²⁷

When asked what Dr. Iademarco had specifically said, Dr. Casey responded: “I believe he said that the director said to delete the email, and that anyone else who had received it, you know, should do as well.”²⁸ Although Dr. Casey stated that the instruction to delete the email “seemed unusual” and “made me uncomfortable,” she “followed the instruction in my chain of command” and deleted the email from her inbox. Dr. Casey confirmed that she also relayed the instruction to delete the email to Dr. Kent and another CDC official, which is consistent with Dr. Kent’s previous statements to the Select Subcommittee.²⁹

I remain deeply concerned about whether any attempts were made to conceal or destroy evidence of political interference in the MMWR or other misconduct. It is essential that you appear before the Select Subcommittee to explain these events.

* * *

The Select Subcommittee is tasked with ensuring that our nation’s response to the coronavirus crisis is effective, efficient, and equitable and with determining how to improve the response to the next public health crisis. Our public health institutions must never again be compromised by decision-makers more concerned with politics than keeping Americans safe. It is therefore imperative that Congress receive a full accounting of what occurred under the prior Administration’s watch.

For all of these reasons, please produce by November 29, 2021, all documents and communications in your possession, custody, or control related to your involvement in the federal government’s response to the coronavirus, including your duties at CDC or as a member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force. In addition, the Select Subcommittee requests that you sit for a transcribed interview on December 6, 2021.

These requests are consistent with the House of Representatives’ authorization of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis “to conduct a full and complete investigation” of “issues related to the coronavirus crisis,” including the “preparedness for and response to the coronavirus crisis” and “executive branch policies, deliberations, decisions, activities, and internal and external communications related to the coronavirus crisis.”³⁰

²⁷ Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Transcribed Interview of Dr. Christine Casey (Oct. 28, 2021).

²⁸ *Id.* Dr. Iademarco told the Select Subcommittee in a recent interview that he does not have a specific recollection of telling Dr. Casey to delete the email. However, Dr. Iademarco expressed that he does not recall many of the details of this incident, which took place in the summer of 2020. Transcribed Interview of Dr. Michael Iademarco (Oct. 29, 2021).

²⁹ Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Transcribed Interview of Dr. Christine Casey (Oct. 28, 2021); *see also* Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, Transcribed Interview of Dr. Charlotte Kent (Dec. 7, 2020) (online at https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/Kent%20Transcript_Redacted.pdf).

³⁰ H.Res. 8, sec. 4(f); H.Res. 935, 116th Cong. (2020).

Dr. Robert R. Redfield

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Please confirm by November 19, 2021, that you have received my letter and will comply with these requests. An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to the Select Subcommittee's request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Select Subcommittee staff at (202) 225-4400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James E. Clyburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

James E. Clyburn
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Steve Scalise, Ranking Member

Responding to Oversight Committee Document Requests

1. In complying with this request, produce all responsive documents that are in your possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or your past or present agents, employees, and representatives acting on your behalf. Produce all documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that you have a right to copy, or to which you have access, as well as documents that you have placed in the temporary possession, custody, or control of any third party.
2. Requested documents, and all documents reasonably related to the requested documents, should not be destroyed, altered, removed, transferred, or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committee.
3. In the event that any entity, organization, or individual denoted in this request is or has been known by any name other than that herein denoted, the request shall be read also to include that alternative identification.
4. The Committee's preference is to receive documents in electronic form (i.e., CD, memory stick, thumb drive, or secure file transfer) in lieu of paper productions.
5. Documents produced in electronic format should be organized, identified, and indexed electronically.
6. Electronic document productions should be prepared according to the following standards:
 - a. The production should consist of single page Tagged Image File ("TIF"), files accompanied by a Concordance-format load file, an Opticon reference file, and a file defining the fields and character lengths of the load file.
 - b. Document numbers in the load file should match document Bates numbers and TIF file names.
 - c. If the production is completed through a series of multiple partial productions, field names and file order in all load files should match.
 - d. All electronic documents produced to the Committee should include the following fields of metadata specific to each document, and no modifications should be made to the original metadata:

BEGDOC, ENDDOC, TEXT, BEGATTACH, ENDATTACH, PAGECOUNT, CUSTODIAN, RECORDTYPE, DATE, TIME, SENTDATE, SENTTIME, BEGINDATE, BEGINTIME, ENDDATE, ENDTIME, AUTHOR, FROM, CC, TO, BCC, SUBJECT, TITLE, FILENAME, FILEEXT, FILESIZE, DATECREATED, TIMECREATED, DATELASTMOD, TIMELASTMOD,

INTMSGID, INTMSGHEADER, NATIVELINK, INTFILPATH, EXCEPTION,
BEGATTACH.

7. Documents produced to the Committee should include an index describing the contents of the production. To the extent more than one CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, zip file, box, or folder is produced, each should contain an index describing its contents.
8. Documents produced in response to this request shall be produced together with copies of file labels, dividers, or identifying markers with which they were associated when the request was served.
9. When you produce documents, you should identify the paragraph(s) or request(s) in the Committee's letter to which the documents respond.
10. The fact that any other person or entity also possesses non-identical or identical copies of the same documents shall not be a basis to withhold any information.
11. The pendency of or potential for litigation shall not be a basis to withhold any information.
12. In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(d), the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and any statutory exemptions to FOIA shall not be a basis for withholding any information.
13. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552a(b)(9), the Privacy Act shall not be a basis for withholding information.
14. If compliance with the request cannot be made in full by the specified return date, compliance shall be made to the extent possible by that date. An explanation of why full compliance is not possible shall be provided along with any partial production.
15. In the event that a document is withheld on the basis of privilege, provide a privilege log containing the following information concerning any such document: (a) every privilege asserted; (b) the type of document; (c) the general subject matter; (d) the date, author, addressee, and any other recipient(s); (e) the relationship of the author and addressee to each other; and (f) the basis for the privilege(s) asserted.
16. If any document responsive to this request was, but no longer is, in your possession, custody, or control, identify the document (by date, author, subject, and recipients), and explain the circumstances under which the document ceased to be in your possession, custody, or control.
17. If a date or other descriptive detail set forth in this request referring to a document is inaccurate, but the actual date or other descriptive detail is known to you or is otherwise apparent from the context of the request, produce all documents that would be responsive as if the date or other descriptive detail were correct.

18. This request is continuing in nature and applies to any newly-discovered information. Any record, document, compilation of data, or information not produced because it has not been located or discovered by the return date shall be produced immediately upon subsequent location or discovery.
19. All documents shall be Bates-stamped sequentially and produced sequentially.
20. Two sets of each production shall be delivered, one set to the Majority Staff and one set to the Minority Staff. When documents are produced to the Committee, production sets shall be delivered to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2105 of the Rayburn House Office Building.
21. Upon completion of the production, submit a written certification, signed by you or your counsel, stating that: (1) a diligent search has been completed of all documents in your possession, custody, or control that reasonably could contain responsive documents; and (2) all documents located during the search that are responsive have been produced to the Committee.

Definitions

1. The term “document” means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, data, working papers, records, notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, communications, electronic mail (email), contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, meeting or other inter-office or intra-office communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electric records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape, or otherwise. A document bearing any notation not a part of the original text is to be considered a separate document. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.
2. The term “communication” means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information, regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether in a meeting, by telephone, facsimile, mail, releases, electronic

message including email (desktop or mobile device), text message, instant message, MMS or SMS message, message application, or otherwise.

3. The terms “and” and “or” shall be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this request any information that might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The singular includes plural number, and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neutral genders.
4. The term “including” shall be construed broadly to mean “including, but not limited to.”
5. The term “Company” means the named legal entity as well as any units, firms, partnerships, associations, corporations, limited liability companies, trusts, subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, departments, branches, joint ventures, proprietorships, syndicates, or other legal, business or government entities over which the named legal entity exercises control or in which the named entity has any ownership whatsoever.
6. The term “identify,” when used in a question about individuals, means to provide the following information: (a) the individual’s complete name and title; (b) the individual’s business or personal address and phone number; and (c) any and all known aliases.
7. The term “related to” or “referring or relating to,” with respect to any given subject, means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with, or is pertinent to that subject in any manner whatsoever.
8. The term “employee” means any past or present agent, borrowed employee, casual employee, consultant, contractor, de facto employee, detailee, fellow, independent contractor, intern, joint adventurer, loaned employee, officer, part-time employee, permanent employee, provisional employee, special government employee, subcontractor, or any other type of service provider.
9. The term “individual” means all natural persons and all persons or entities acting on their behalf.