

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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June 02, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

I write with serious concerns about the report recently released by the White House titled “The MAHA Report: Make Our Children Healthy Again” (the Report). Despite the Report’s insistence on “pursuing truth” and “embracing science,”¹ public reporting has revealed that the Report cites scientific studies that do not exist, misrepresents the findings of certain studies, and may have used artificial intelligence (AI) to draw conclusions that are not based on actual scientific research.² Given your history of promoting medical misinformation and conspiracy theories,³ I am concerned that the Report—which you oversaw as Chair of President Trump’s Make America Healthy Again Commission—manipulates and falsifies science to advance President Trump’s political objectives. To understand the ways that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) may have used AI to sidestep scientific and academic rigor in drafting the Report, I demand information about the process by which the Report was drafted, reviewed, published, and later amended.

Since the Report’s publication on May 23, 2025, public reporting has revealed that several of the Report’s citations were to studies that do not exist or which were not published by the author listed in the citation. In some instances, the Report cited to studies purportedly written by academics who have never published on the topic at hand. Even when the Report correctly cited scientific studies, authors of many of those studies stated that the Report inaccurately

¹ Make American Healthy Again, *The MAHA Report: Make Our Children Healthy Again* (May 2025) (online at www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/WH-The-MAHA-Report-Assessment.pdf).

² See *White House MAHA Report May Have Garbled Science by Using AI, Experts Say*, Washington Post (May 29, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/05/29/maha-rfk-jr-ai-garble/?_pml=1); *White House Health Report Included Fake Citations*, New York Times (May 29, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/05/29/well/maha-report-citations.html); *The MAHA Report Cites Studies That Don’t Exist*, NOTUS (May 29, 2025) (online at www.notus.org/health-science/make-america-healthy-again-report-citation-errors).

³ See e.g., Brookings, *RFK Jr.’s History of Medical Misinformation Raises Concerns Over HHS Nomination* (Feb. 6, 2025) (online at www.brookings.edu/articles/rfk-jr-s-history-of-medical-misinformation-raises-concerns-over-hhs-nomination).

summarized or misrepresented the findings of those studies. These are all common errors when AI is used for scientific research. Other evidence of the use of AI in drafting the Report include the many broken links in the Report's citations, and the fact that some citations included "oaicite" in the URLs—referring to the artificial intelligence company OpenAI and indicating that the research was collected using AI.⁴

It appears that the Administration is already trying to cover up its shoddy work. The same day that these false citations were first reported, the version of the Report available online was quickly updated to remove all "oaicite" demarcations and to fix certain citations. For example, a citation that previously linked to a nonexistent study was replaced with a citation to a similar study by the same lead author—a study which notably has a different title and different co-authors. These substantive changes came after White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt promised that "some formatting issues" would be addressed and HHS spokesman Andrew Nixon said that "minor citation and formatting errors have been corrected."⁵

Americans have lower life-expectancies and frequently experience worse health outcomes than citizens of our peer nations.⁶ These are serious concerns that must be better understood and addressed, including by increasing access to affordable health care. However, using AI to manufacture fake science in support of a political agenda will not make America healthier; it will only undermine scientific integrity and make it more difficult to solve the problems our country faces.

To help Congress understand the level of scientific rigor the Make American Healthy Again Commission used in preparing its May 2025, Report, including the extent to which the Commission may have relied on AI to draft any portion of the Report, I request the following information and documents by June 16, 2025:

1. All drafts of the Report eventually published as "The MAHA Report: Make Our Children Healthy Again";
2. All documents and communications related to the Report, including but not limited to communications regarding citations, scientific studies, and scientific conclusions;
3. A detailed description of how AI was used in preparing the Report;

⁴ *White House MAHA Report May Have garbled Science by Using AI, Experts Say*, Washington Post (May 29, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/05/29/maha-rfk-jr-ai-garble/?_pml=1); *White House Health Report Included Fake Citations*, New York Times (May 29, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/05/29/well/maha-report-citations.html); *The MAHA Report Cites Studies That Don't Exist*, NOTUS (May 29, 2025) (online at www.notus.org/health-science/make-america-healthy-again-report-citation-errors).

⁵ *White House MAHA Report May Have Garbled Science by Using AI, Experts Say*, Washington Post (May 29, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/05/29/maha-rfk-jr-ai-garble/?_pml=1).

⁶ Peterson-KFF, *How Does the Quality of the U.S. Health System Compare to Other Countries?* (Oct. 9, 2024) (online at www.healthsystemtracker.org/chart-collection/quality-u-s-healthcare-system-compare-countries/).

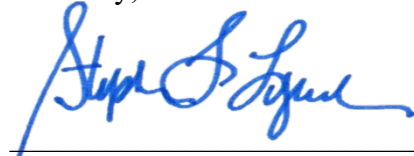
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4. A list of all AI programs used by HHS and a corresponding description of when those programs are used, by whom, and on what categories of work product;
5. A detailed list of all changes made to the Report since its publication on the White House website, including the date and time of each change and the reason for such change;
6. A detailed description of how studies were identified for inclusion in the Report, including but not limited to how those studies were reviewed and by whom;
7. All documents and communications between HHS and authors of studies cited in the Report about the studies' findings; and
8. A list of titles for all individuals who participated in drafting the Report and a corresponding description of that individual's role in preparing the Report.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Stephen F. Lynch
Acting Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman