

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074

MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Pamela J. Bondi
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

We write with concern the Trump Administration and its anti-consumer policies will undermine the critical mission of the Department of Justice (DOJ) as it works to enforce laws that protect Americans' health, safety and economic security.¹ DOJ's Consumer Protection Branch has an enforcement mandate to investigate and prosecute entities that deploy illegal practices to drive up the price of essential goods and services that Americans rely on every day, such as prescription drugs, groceries, and rent. We encourage DOJ to continue to take action against any company that exploits or defrauds working families and to further its work ensuring that prices remain fair and transparent.

Powerful actions DOJ took under the previous administration that made life better for people across the country include:

- Lowering the cost of health care and prescription drug prices for millions of Americans. DOJ's Antitrust Division engaged in enforcement actions designed to "weed[] out anticompetitive practices and market consolidation that hinder Americans' access to quality care at affordable rates."² For the first time ever, the Antitrust Division secured \$50 million in free prescription drugs for people in need as part of a settlement with one of the nation's largest pharmaceutical companies. DOJ also secured victory against a company conspiring with a competitor to improperly fix nursing wages. We urge DOJ to continue its work to ensure that the health care system serves the American people and not corporate shareholders.

¹ Department of Justice, *Consumer Protection Branch* (online at www.justice.gov/civil/consumer-protection-branch) (accessed Feb. 26, 2025).

² Federal Trade Commission, *Press Release: FTC, DOJ and HHS Work to Lower Health Care and Drug Costs, Promote Competition to Benefit Patients, Health Care Workers* (Dec. 7, 2024) (online at www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2023/12/ftc-doj-hhs-work-lower-health-care-drug-costs-promote-competition-benefit-patients-health-care).

- Combating rising grocery prices. The DOJ worked with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to investigate and prosecute anti-competitive conduct within the poultry industry and intervened to block mergers that would have resulted in higher prices of vegetables and meat.³ We urge DOJ to continue to ensure groceries are affordable for all Americans, particularly as grocery store prices continue to rise.
- Fighting for fair rent. Over the past four years, DOJ has used its enforcement authorities to investigate and prosecute large corporate landlords, real estate software platforms, and private equity firms alleged to have artificially inflated rental prices nationwide.⁴ As rents increase across the country,⁵ actions like this help keep housing affordable for American families. We strongly encourage DOJ to continue to stand with tenants facing unfair rental prices.

Last year, DOJ and the FTC launched a Strike Force on Unfair and Illegal Pricing designed to lower prices for all Americans—including in key sectors like health care, food, and housing—and to combat corporate lawbreaking and exploitative tactics.⁶ We urge the Trump Administration to continue the Strike Force, especially as many Americans are struggling to afford groceries, rent, and other everyday essentials, and to continue an all-of-government approach to combatting monopolies, collusion, and price gouging.

President Trump promised that he would bring down prices on “Day 1” of his Administration. Six weeks later, the price of consumer goods continues to rise at a rapid rate. President Trump now says he “do[es]n’t have a timeline” for when prices will fall, and Vice President Vance has said it is “going to take a little bit of time” for consumers to see lower grocery prices.⁷ Experts have warned that tariffs on imported goods are likely to further increase costs for consumers.⁸ As prices rise in all areas of our lives, DOJ’s work to protect consumers is more important than ever. We urge DOJ to continue to use its robust statutory authority to aggressively fight abusive corporate practices and lower costs for Americans.

³ Department of Justice, *Press Release: Justice Department Files Lawsuit and Proposed Consent Decree to Prohibit Koch Foods from Imposing Unfair and Anticompetitive Termination Penalties in Contracts with Chicken Growers* (Nov. 9, 2023) (online at www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/justice-department-files-lawsuit-and-proposed-consent-decree-prohibit-koch-foods-imposing).

⁴ *U.S. Expands RealPage Price-Fixing Lawsuit to Include Six Big Landlords*, Wall Street Journal (Jan. 7, 2025) (online at www.wsj.com/politics/policy/realpage-doj-landlord-name-release-7004412f).

⁵ See Nerdwallet, *Rent Prices Keep Rising Amid Inflation, Low Inventory* (Feb. 12, 2025) (online at www.nerdwallet.com/article/finance/rental-market-trends).

⁶ Federal Trade Commission, *Remarks by FTC Chair Lina Khan and Assistant Attorney General Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division of the United States Jonathan Kanter, Strike Force Virtual Meeting* (Aug. 1, 2024) (online at www.ftc.gov/system/files/ftc_gov/pdf/strike-force-virtualmeeting_-transcript.pdf).

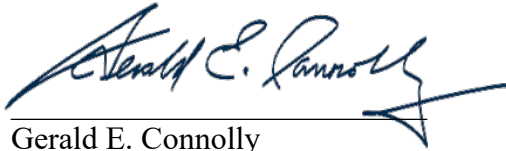
⁷ *With High Prices Persisting, Trump Tempers Tone on Slaying Inflation*, New York Times (Feb. 12, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/02/12/us/politics/trump-inflation-prices.html).

⁸ *Id.*

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.⁹

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Democratic Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

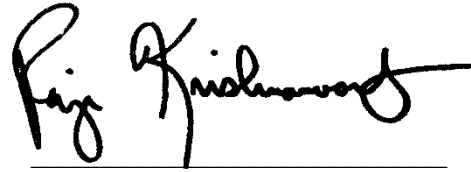
Sincerely,



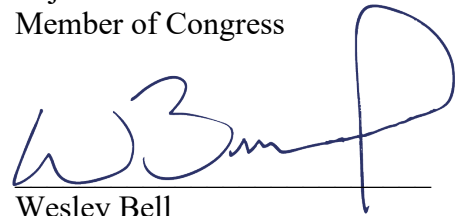
Gerald E. Connolly
Ranking Member



Maxwell A. Frost
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

⁹ House Rule X, clause 4(c)(2).