

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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May 22, 2023

Ms. Rochelle Walensky, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Dr. Walensky:

On March 28, 2023, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (Select Subcommittee) wrote to you regarding whether non-governmental groups exercised undue influence on U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) scientific guidance, specifically the CDC's February 2021 "Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention" (Operational Strategy).¹ This request included whether the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)—a political, not medical group—worked to undermine the science and keep schools closed. Two months later, you have yet to produce a single responsive document.

On April 26, 2023, Ms. Randi Weingarten, President of the American Federation of Teachers, testified before the Select Subcommittee.² During her testimony, she testified that she has your direct contact information. For your ready reference your testimony was as follows:

Q.	Do you have a direct number to Director Walensky?
A.	Do I have Director Walensky's direct number?
Q.	Yes.
A.	Yes, I have Director Walensky's direct number. ³

In light of this testimony, your impending departure from federal service, and to further assist the Select Subcommittee's investigation into the CDC's guidance drafting and publication process, we request that you preserve all documents and communications, including any retained

¹ Letter from Hon. Brad Wenstrup, Chairman, Select Subcomm. on the Coronavirus Pandemic, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Rochelle Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., Dir., U.S. Cents. for Disease Control & Prevention (Mar. 28, 2023).

² *The Consequences of School Closures, Part 2: The President of the American Federation of Teachers, Ms. Randi Weingarten: Hearing Before Select Subcomm. on the Coronavirus Pandemic*, 118th Cong. (Apr. 26, 2023).

³ *Id.*

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on your personal cell phone(s) or e-mail account(s), related to the March 28 requests. To allow a full and complete record of these documents to be produced, please:

1. Preserve all e-mail, electronic documents, and data (“electronic records”) created since January 20, 2021, related to the American Federation of Teachers, Ms. Randi Weingarten, COVID-19 related school closures and/or openings, or the Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention. For the purposes of this request, “preserve” means taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, or mutation of electronic records as well as negligent or intentional handling in a manner that would make such records incomplete or inaccessible;
2. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify former employees and contractors, including subcontractors and consultants who may have access to such electronic records in an effort to ensure these records are to be preserved; and,
3. If it is the routine practice of any employee or contractor to destroy or otherwise alter such documents or electronic records, either halt such practices or arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates or copies of such records, suitable for production if requested.

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic is authorized to investigate “the societal impact of decisions to close schools, how the decisions were made and whether there is evidence of widespread learning loss or other negative effects as a result of these decisions” and “executive branch policies, deliberations, decisions, activities, and internal and external communications related to the coronavirus pandemic” under H. Res. 5.⁴

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M.

Chairman

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

cc: The Honorable Raul Ruiz, M.D., Ranking Member
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

⁴ H. Res. 5 § 4(a)(2023).