

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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Majority (202) 225-5074
Minority (202) 225-5051

October 5, 2023

Mandy Cohen, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Director Cohen:

On March 28, 2023, we sent your predecessor a letter requesting information pertaining to external political organizations' potential undue influence on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) school reopening guidance.¹ We sent a follow-up letter to your predecessor again on June 1, 2023.²

To date, the CDC has produced a minimal number of documents in response to our requests. The Select Subcommittee, however, knows that responsive documents exist that have yet to be produced. The rationale for this lack of cooperation is unknown but considering the recent revelations that President Biden "for the sake of avoiding conflict with an ally [teachers unions]... trimmed [his] goal of returning kids to school to a fraction of what they promised on the campaign trail," it unfortunately appears that the CDC is following President Biden's lead and stonewalling Congressional oversight.³ This is unacceptable.

As you know, the Select Subcommittee has been charged with investigating pandemic-era policy decisions, including school closures and their effect on America's children. To conduct a thorough investigation, we must have the full cooperation of federal agencies. Further, the Select Subcommittee has confirmed a transcribed interview of Dr. Greta Massetti for October 31, 2023, to obtain more information regarding this investigation. It again appears like the CDC is delaying production of certain documents harmful to the CDC and/or the teachers unions until after this interview is conducted. Denying the Select Subcommittee access to information to hamstringing its ability to ask questions is inexcusable and creates distrust in our government.

The Select Subcommittee will not tolerate any further delay to its investigation—especially one such as this—which may be used to inform legislation to enhance the CDC's

¹ Letter from Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M., Chairman, Select Subcomm. on the Coronavirus Pandemic, to Rochelle Walensky, M.D., Dir., Ctrs for Disease Control & Prevention, (Mar. 28, 2023).

² Letter from Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M., Chairman, Select Subcomm. on the Coronavirus Pandemic, to Rochelle Walensky, M.D., Dir., Ctrs for Disease Control & Prevention, (June 1, 2023).

³ Karol Markowicz, *Never forget: It was Randi Weingarten and the Bidens who Sacrificed a generation of kids*, N.Y. POST (Sept. 8, 2023).

scientific guidance drafting process and improve transparency surrounding which groups participate in that process. If the CDC fails to adequately produce records responsive to our requests, the Select Subcommittee will pursue the use of the compulsory process.

As further accommodation to the CDC, we write to you today tabling some of our previous requests and providing greater specificity to the remaining requests. Please provide the following documents and information as soon as possible but no later than October 12, 2023:

1. All documents and communications between or among employees or contractors of the CDC regarding the February 12, 2021 CDC guidance entitled “Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention” (Operational Strategy). To fulfill this request, the CDC should search for responsive documents from the following custodians:
 1. Dr. Rochelle Walensky;
 2. Dr. Henry Walke;
 3. Dr. Greta Massetti; and
 4. Dr. Christopher Jones.

2. All documents and communications between or among employees or contractors of the CDC and employees or contractors of the American Federation of Teachers regarding the Operational Strategy. To fulfill this request, the CDC should search for responsive documents from the following custodians:
 1. Dr. Rochelle Walensky;
 2. Dr. Henry Walke;
 3. Dr. Greta Massetti; and
 4. Dr. Christopher Jones.

Further, the CDC should search for documents and communications that involve, reference, or are regarding the following individuals:

1. Ms. Randi Weingarten;
2. Ms. Kelly Trautner Nedrow;
3. Ms. Jane Meroney;
4. Ms. Marcela Ucelli-Kashyap;
5. Ms. Beth Antunez;
6. Dr. Jill Biden;
7. Dr. Susan Rice;
8. Mr. Jeff Zients;
9. Dr. Ashish Jha; and
10. Ms. Carole Johnson.

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

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“executive branch policies, deliberations, decisions, activities, and internal and external communications related to the coronavirus pandemic” under H. Res. 5. To ask any follow-up or related questions please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5074.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M.

Chairman

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