

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

November 21, 2024

Melanie Anne Egorin, Ph.D.  
Assistant Secretary for Legislation  
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Assistant Secretary Egorin:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability (Committee) is continuing its investigation into the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) development of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (Dietary Guidelines). Specifically, the Committee is investigating a Scientific Review Panel of Alcohol Intake and Health convened by HHS' Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD), which is intended to inform the 2025 Dietary Guidelines and is duplicative of a study conducted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM).<sup>1</sup>

On September 30, 2024, Chairman Comer issued a subpoena for outstanding documents and information requested by the Committee on April 4, 2024.<sup>2</sup> In response to the subpoena, HHS has only provided 18 pages of responsive documents, all of which were publicly available. HHS staff have been unable to produce an explanation as to why HHS is unable to comply with the subpoena, nor an anticipated schedule for producing further documents to the Committee, despite multiple requests. HHS' failure to comply with the subpoena is unacceptable.

HHS' lack of compliance with the Committee's investigation amplifies our concerns about HHS' subversion of congressional intent and oversight in its establishment of the ICCPUD Scientific Review Panel.<sup>3</sup> We believe you have information that will assist us fully in understanding why HHS has been unable to comply with the Committee's subpoena. We therefore request that you make yourself available for a transcribed interview on December 5, 2024.

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<sup>1</sup> See Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability & Hon. Lisa McClain, Chairwoman, Subcomm. on Health Care & Fin. Servs. to Hon. Xavier Becerra, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Health & Human Servs. (Apr. 4, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Xavier Becerra, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Health & Human Servs. (Sept. 30, 2024).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

Assistant Secretary Egorin

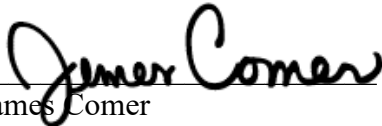
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To schedule the transcribed interview or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority Staff at (202) 225-5074 no later than November 27, 2024.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Additionally, House Rule X, clause 1(n)(1), (6), (10) charges the Committee with legislative jurisdiction over “[f]ederal civil service, including intergovernmental personnel...”, “[o]verall economy, efficiency, and management of government operations and activities...” and “[p]ublic information and records.” Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Lisa McClain  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Health Care and  
Financial Services

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Katie Porter, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services