

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2025

Martin A. Makary, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Ave  
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Dr. Makary:

We are writing to you following your recent confirmation as the Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). As Marylanders, we appreciate your decades of dedicated service to patients in our state through your work at Johns Hopkins. As Members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation, we write to you today because we are deeply committed to the mission and continued success of the FDA. We are proud that the White Oak Campus is located in Silver Spring and that there are several FDA facilities in our state. **We respectfully request an urgent meeting with you regarding the recent mass firings, forced staff departures, and other serious disruptions at the FDA.**

The FDA's vital mission includes ensuring the safety of our nation's food supply, drugs, and medical devices. Following the reported mass firing of 3,500 FDA employees (about 20 percent of FDA's workforce),<sup>1</sup> as well as numerous high-profile departures,<sup>2</sup> we are profoundly concerned about the FDA's ability to keep Americans safe and healthy.

Entire offices were reportedly eliminated, including, for example, the travel department that facilitated inspectors' trips to investigate food and drug production facilities – leading to fewer inspections.<sup>3</sup> Whole communications teams were reportedly eliminated, hampering the FDA's ability to inform the public about recalls of contaminated drugs or dangerous food products. We are particularly concerned about the firings of veterinarians working on our nation's response to the bird flu outbreak.<sup>4</sup> Finally, the reported elimination of most of FDA's staff that processes Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests raises urgent questions about agency transparency and how FDA will fulfill its statutory obligations under FOIA.

As Members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation, the matters described above are of profound concern to us and our constituents. Once again, **we request to meet with you at your**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.statnews.com/2025/04/01/fda-rif-3500-layoff-notice-under-rfk-jr-hhs-reorganization/#:~:text=HHS%20announced%20last%20week%20that,or%2019%25%20of%20the%20agency.>

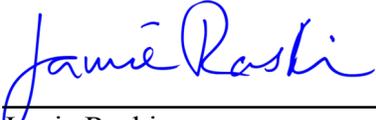
<sup>2</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/fda-vaccine-chief-peter-marks-resign-rfk-kennedy-7743be11cec4e4e22c50c2ddbcb6bcd8>; <https://apnews.com/article/fda-tobacco-rfk-brian-king-cf2d5657e5d5410073aece19592be09>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fda-food-drug-inspections-layoffs/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/04/02/bird-flu-fda-veterinarians-laid-off/>

earliest convenience. We can come to your office at the White Oak Campus in Silver Spring, congressional business permitting. Our staff has already been in touch to discuss potential times. Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,



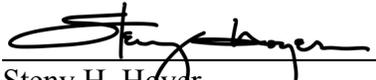
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



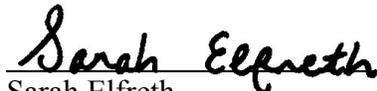
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



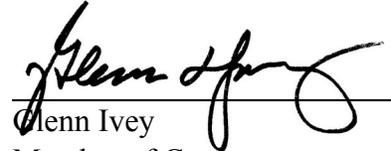
Angela Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



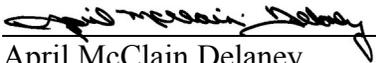
Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth  
Member of Congress



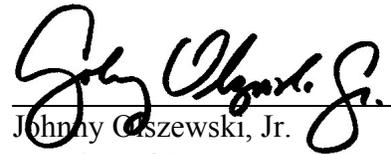
Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney  
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



Johnny Ciszewski, Jr.  
Member of Congress