

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 24, 2020

Mr. David S. Harris
President and Chief Executive Officer
Advanced Decision Vectors, LLC
5270 Shawnee Road
Alexandria, VA. 22312

Dear Mr. Harris:

We write regarding your contract with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under which Dr. Moncef Slaoui is reportedly being paid \$1 to serve as chief advisor for Operation Warp Speed (OWS),¹ the Trump administration's initiative to bring a coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine rapidly to market. In a July 30, 2020, response to a request from our offices, HHS confirmed the existence of this contract with Advanced Decision Vectors, LLC (ADV),² which appears to be designed solely to allow Dr. Slaoui to evade government ethics rules and avoid recusal and divestment requirements related to his numerous financial conflicts of interest.³

According to the HHS response:

HHS procured Dr. Slaoui's expertise via a government contract in order to support Operation Warp Speed (OWS) federal leaders as a scientific and medical advisor. Dr. Slaoui is working under a contract awarded to Advanced Decision Vectors, LLC, a federal contractor that is a participant in the Small Business Administration's 8(a) Business Development Program. The terms of the contract provide that the contractor and its employees shall not perform inherently government functions. The contract also contains specific language to address potential financial conflicts of interest.⁴

¹ The New York Times, "Chief Vaccine Scientist Will Not Be Forced to Disclose Pharmaceutical Stocks," Noah Weiland, July 15, 2020, Available online: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/15/us/politics/vaccine-slaoui-coronavirus-trump.html>.

² Response letter and enclosure from HHS to Senator Warren, signed by Sarah Arbes, HHS Assistant Secretary for Legislation, July 30, 2020. ("HHS July 30 Response").
<https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/July%2030%20HHS%20Letter%20to%20Sen%20Warren.pdf>.

³ Letter from Sen. Warren, Sen. Blumenthal, and Rep. Jayapal to HHS Secretary Azar, June 15, 2020, online: <https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2020.06.15%20Letter%20about%20Operation%20Warp%20Speed%20conflicted%20adviser%20arrangement.pdf>.

⁴ HHS July 30 Response.

HHS confirmation of this unusual arrangement raises a number of questions. It is not at all clear what ADV's role is in this contract, nor is it clear how it is in the company's interest to serve as the middleman in a scheme that appears to be designed solely to allow a high-level scientist involved in OWS to avoid addressing his serious financial conflicts of interest.

To address our concerns, we ask that you provide answers to the following questions:

1. What services is ADV providing to HHS for OWS?
2. How many total employees does ADV have? How many are involved with providing services to HHS for OWS?
3. What is the total value of ADV's contract with HHS for OWS?
4. What previous services has ADV provided to HHS? Please provide a comprehensive list of all previous contacts between ADV and HHS.
5. What specific services is Dr. Slaoui providing to OWS?
6. How much is Dr. Slaoui being paid for his services for OWS?
7. What other benefits is Dr. Slaoui receiving in addition to his pay?
8. What are the specific contractual provisions in place to address Dr. Slaoui's conflicts of interest?
9. What are Dr. Slaoui's other responsibilities or roles with ADV?
10. Does Dr. Slaoui perform work for any other clients of ADV?
11. How did ADV come to receive this contract? Was there a bidding process or was the contract awarded via a different process (if awarded via a different process, please describe)?
 - a. In how many other contracts has ADV agreed to be paid \$1 for its consultants' services?
12. How did ADV come to hire Dr. Slaoui? Was your company directed to hire him by a government official? If so, which official directed you to hire him, when, and under what terms and conditions?

We also ask that you provide us with a complete and unredacted copy of the contract under which Dr. Slaoui has been hired. Please provide us with this and all other requested information no later than September 7, 2020.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress