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ARMED SERVICES

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

March 12, 2025

Mehmet Oz Nominee for Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20500

## Dear Dr. Mehmet Oz:

Congratulations on your nomination to serve as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). If confirmed, you will be expected to steward CMS's \$1.5 trillion budget in the best interest of the over 140 million Americans on Medicare and Medicaid. Entering this role with financial conflicts of interest would undermine your effectiveness and the effectiveness of the programs you are slated to administer. To avoid this, I request that you agree to: (1) divest any remaining financial interests in health-related companies or patents that you will have the power to influence, (2) recuse from matters involving your former employers and clients and, (3) for at least four years after you leave office, not lobby CMS or join the industries that depend on CMS's work.

You have deep ties to companies that could profit from your decisions at CMS. You currently serve as a managing member or advisor of multiple health care and pharmaceutical firms with a financial stake in CMS policy, including how the agency sets payment rates and coverage determinations for Medicare and Medicaid.<sup>2</sup> You also use your public platforms — including your website, TV show, TikTok, and Instagram pages — to promote drugs, such as Ozempic, produced by pharmaceutical companies that are currently seeking expanded CMS coverage approval and that are subject to government drug negotiations — which you would be responsible for conducting.<sup>3</sup> You have been paid to push your show's viewers to enroll in the private alternative to Medicare, Medicare Advantage — a program run by private health insurers that overcharged CMS

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, "Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Report," November 2024, p. i, https://www.cms.gov/files/document/cms-financial-report-fiscal-year-2024.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> New York Times, "Dr. Oz, Tapped to Run Medicare, Has a Record of Promoting Health Misinformation," Dani Blum, Emily Schmall, and Nina Argawal, November 20, 2024, https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/20/well/dr-ozhealth-medicare-record.html; National Public Radio, "TV's Dr. Oz invested in businesses regulated by the agency Trump wants him to run," Darius Tahir, November 22, 2024, https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-healthnews/2024/11/22/nx-s1-5201663/trump-dr-oz-investments-cms.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Public Citizen, "Letter to FTC: Investigate Dr. Oz's Potential Violations of Influencer Marketing Standards," Robert Weissman, December 3, 2024, https://www.citizen.org/article/letter-to-ftc-investigate-dr-ozs-potential-violations-ofinfluencer-marketing-standards/; New York Times, "Dr. Oz, Tapped to Run Medicare, Has a Record of Promoting Health Misinformation," Dani Blum, Emily Schmall, and Nina Argawal, November 20, 2024, https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/20/well/dr-oz-health-medicare-record.html.

by at least \$83 billion in 2024 alone.<sup>4</sup> Doctors have critiqued you for allegedly "promoting quack treatments and cures in the interest of personal financial gain."<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, much of your financial portfolio (worth at least \$98 million<sup>6</sup>) is invested in health care and pharmaceutical companies whose value is tied to CMS's regulatory work.<sup>7</sup> I appreciate that you have agreed to divest much of your portfolio and resign from your advisory posts. Still, given your close ties to the industry that you would regulate, if you are confirmed, the public would have reason to question your impartiality and commitment to serving the public's interest.

During the Biden Administration, several appointees mitigated concerns about their own potential conflicts of interest by going beyond what was required by law, the presidential ethics pledge, and even agreements with the Office of Government Ethics and the Designated Agency Ethics Officials.<sup>8</sup> I urge you to do the same.

First, you should eliminate any financial interest in iHerb or its affiliates before entering office. You are a global advisor to iHerb, an e-commerce site that sells health supplements. You feature the company prominently on your website and social media profiles, <sup>9</sup> and you have millions

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, "Report to the Congress: Medicare Payment Policy," June 2024, p. 373, <a href="https://www.medpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Mar24">https://www.medpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Mar24</a> Ch12 MedPAC Report To Congress SEC-1.pdf; Intelligencer, "Dr. Oz Shilled for an Alternative to Medicare Trump's pick to oversee the program is a hype man for private-sector competition," Chris Stanton, November 25, 2024, <a href="https://nymag.com/intelligencer/article/mehmet-oz-medicare-advantage.html">https://mymag.com/intelligencer/article/mehmet-oz-medicare-advantage.html</a>; Youtube, "Get \$0/Month Medicare Coverage: What You Need to Know | Oz Health," Doctor Oz, August 25, 2024, <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFSLNGYzvww">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFSLNGYzvww</a>; New York Times, "Dr. Oz: How His Millions Collide With Medicare," Reed Abelson and Susanne Craig, February 24, 2025, <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/24/health/dr-oz-medicare-finances-conflicts.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/24/health/dr-oz-medicare-finances-conflicts.html</a>; National Public Radio, "GAO Audit: Feds Failed To Rein In Medicare Advantage Overbilling," Fred Schulte, May 9, 2016, <a href="https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/05/09/477388989/gao-audit-feds-failed-to-rein-in-medicare-advantage-overbilling">https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/05/09/477388989/gao-audit-feds-failed-to-rein-in-medicare-advantage-overbilling</a>; The Nation, "Medicare Dis-Advantage: Overpayments and Inequity," Adam Gaffney, David U. Himmelstein, and Steffie Woolhandler, July 1, 2024, <a href="https://www.thenation.com/article/society/medicare-advantage-privatization-inequity-fraud/">https://www.thenation.com/article/society/medicare-advantage-privatization-inequity-fraud/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> New York Times, "Dr. Oz to Respond on Show to Criticism by Physicians," Sydney Ember, April 20, 2015, <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/21/business/media/dr-oz-to-respond-on-show-to-criticism-by-physicians.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/21/business/media/dr-oz-to-respond-on-show-to-criticism-by-physicians.html</a>.

<sup>6</sup> Associated Press, "Dr. Mehmet Oz holds millions from companies he'd wield power over in top Trump job, report shows," Amanda Seitz and Brian Slodysko, February 20, 2025, <a href="https://apnews.com/article/mehmet-oz-ethics-medicare-medicaid-financial-disclosure-68464b4021a8216436f0a4e98b6a2f88">https://apnews.com/article/mehmet-oz-ethics-medicare-medicaid-financial-disclosure-68464b4021a8216436f0a4e98b6a2f88</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> USA Today, "Dr. Mehmet Oz had up to \$33 million in companies doing business with agency he'd run," Erin Mansfield, December 13, 2024, <a href="https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2024/12/13/dr-oz-companies-tied-medicare/76917868007/">https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2024/12/13/dr-oz-companies-tied-medicare/76917868007/</a>; Accountable US, "New Conflicts: Dr. Oz, Trump's Centers For Medicare And Medicaid Services Pick, Reported Up To \$56 Million In Three Companies With Direct CMS Interests," December 5, 2024, <a href="https://accountable.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2024-12-05-Research-on-New-Dr-Mehmet-Oz-CMS-Conflicts.pdf">https://accountable.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2024-12-05-Research-on-New-Dr-Mehmet-Oz-CMS-Conflicts.pdf</a>; Public Citizen, Dr. Oz Sign on Letter, February 20, 2025, <a href="https://www.citizen.org/wp-content/uploads/Dr.-Oz-Sign-On-Letter-February-2025.pdf">https://www.citizen.org/wp-content/uploads/Dr.-Oz-Sign-On-Letter-February-2025.pdf</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> See, e.g., Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren, "In Response to Senator Warren, Federal Reserve Nominees Make Historic Ethics Commitments," press release, February 10, 2022, <a href="https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/in-response-to-senator-warren-federal-reserve-nominees-make-historic-ethics-commitments">https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/in-response-to-senator-warren-federal-reserve-nominees-make-historic-ethics-commitments</a>; Politico, "Elizabeth Warren wins crypto recusals from Biden pick," February 14, 2024,

https://www.politico.com/news/2024/02/14/elizabeth-warren-wins-crypto-recusals-from-biden-nominee-00141390. Washington Post, "Potential conflicts of interest may haunt Dr. Oz's confirmation to run Medicare, Medicaid," Desmond Butler, Lauren Weber, and Caitlin Gilbert, December 2, 2024,

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/12/02/dr-oz-medicare-medicaid-ozempic-conflicts/; Dr. Oz, "Dr. Oz is continuing his work with HealthCorps & is excited to announce his role as iHerb Global Advisor & Stakeholder," https://www.doctoroz.com/.

invested in the company. <sup>10</sup> It is unclear from your financial disclosure report whether you plan to retain any of those investments. <sup>11</sup> Your financial disclosure form says, "I will also divest by [sic] vested [restricted stock units (RSUs)] as soon as practicable but not later than 90 days after my confirmation," but also states, "I will retain RSUs vested prior to the termination/suspension of the Advisor Agreement that satisfies service and performance-based requirements." <sup>12</sup> Furthermore, your ethics agreement states that you will divest your vested RSUs and forfeit your unvested RSUs in iHerb, but that you will retain your financial interest in iHerb Oz Partners LLC. <sup>13</sup> It is unclear what that entity's relationship to iHerb is. If you were to retain a financial interest in iHerb or an entity affiliated with it, you would have a clear conflict of interest. For example, you could profit from increasing CMS's coverage of nutrition supplements sold on iHerb's platform — including expanding the share of the Medicare market controlled by Medicare Advantage companies, which at times cover over-the-counter supplements like those sold by iHerb. <sup>14</sup> Or, for example, you could add more flexibilities to Part D prescription drug plans that currently only cover FDA-approved supplements. To avoid that potential conflict, I urge you to divest any remaining interest in iHerb before joining CMS.

I am also concerned that you plan to enter office with a financial stake in a patent which can gain or lose value as a result of CMS decisions. You earn royalty payments for a patent on a circulatory valve repair device and received somewhere between \$100,000 and \$1 million since January 2024. Your ethics agreement notes that you will recuse yourself from particular matters that impact the royalty payments. However, you would still be able to work on projects that involve

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Dr. Mehmet Oz, Letter to Designated Agency Ethics Official Department of Health and Human Services, February 16, 2025,

https://extapps2.oge.gov/201/Presiden.nsf/PAS+Index/F871A5EF2296E46285258C3600320A25/\$FILE/Oz%2C%20 Mehmet%20%20finalEA.pdf; Office of Government Ethics, "Executive Branch Personnel: Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e) 278," Mehmet Oz, p. 5, on file with the Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren. 

11 New York Times, "Dr. Oz, Trump's Medicare Nominee, Pledges to Sell Health Stocks," Susanne Craig and Reed Ableson, February 19, 2025, https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/19/health/mehmet-oz-medicare-medicaid-stocks.html. 

12 Dr. Mehmet Oz, Letter to Designated Agency Ethics Official Department of Health and Human Services, February 16, 2025,

https://extapps2.oge.gov/201/Presiden.nsf/PAS+Index/F871A5EF2296E46285258C3600320A25/\$FILE/Oz%2C%20 Mehmet%20%20finalEA.pdf; Office of Government Ethics, "Executive Branch Personnel: Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e) 278," Mehmet Oz, p. 6, on file with the Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren; New York Times, "Dr. Oz, Trump's Medicare Nominee, Pledges to Sell Health Stocks," Susanne Craig and Reed Ableson, February 19, 2025, <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/19/health/mehmet-oz-medicare-medicaid-stocks.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/19/health/mehmet-oz-medicare-medicaid-stocks.html</a>. Letter from Mehmet Oz to Designated Agency Ethics Official Randall Hall ("Ethics Agreement"), February 16, 2025, pp. 4, 6,

 $<sup>\</sup>underline{\text{https://extapps2.oge.gov/201/Presiden.nsf/PAS+Index/F871A5EF2296E46285258C3600320A25/\$FILE/Oz\%2C\%20}\\ \underline{\text{Mehmet}\%20\%20finalEA.pdf}.$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> New York Times, "Dr. Oz: How His Millions Collide With Medicare," Reed Abelson and Susanne Craig, February 24, 2025, <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/24/health/dr-oz-medicare-finances-conflicts.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/24/health/dr-oz-medicare-finances-conflicts.html</a>.

<sup>15</sup> U.S. Office of Government Ethics, "Appendix A: Definitions and Other Information," <a href="https://www.oge.gov/web/278eGuide.nsf/Definitions#\_Reporting\_Periods\_by\_Part%20Parts\_2,5,&6;">https://www.oge.gov/web/278eGuide.nsf/Definitions#\_Reporting\_Periods\_by\_Part%20Parts\_2,5,&6;</a> Office of Government Ethics, "Executive Branch Personnel: Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e) 278," Mehmet Oz, p. 4, on file with the Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren; New York Times, "Dr. Oz, Tapped to Run Medicare, Has a Record of Promoting Health Misinformation," Dani Blum, Emily Schmall, and Nina Argawal, November 20, 2024, <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/20/well/dr-oz-health-medicare-record.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/20/well/dr-oz-health-medicare-record.html</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Letter from Mehmet Oz to Designated Agency Ethics Official Randall Hall ("Ethics Agreement"), February 16, 2025, p. 8,

Medicare and Medicaid claims coverage and that expand the market for your patented device but that may not fit the narrow definition of a particular matter. To avoid that potential conflict of interest, you should divest your financial interest in the patent or agree to not work on any matters that would have a direct and predictable effect on its value.

Second, I ask that you commit to recuse yourself from all particular matters involving your former clients and employers for at least four years. You have worked for numerous entities that may have business before CMS, including Eko Health and SandboxAQ, which sell medical diagnostic technologies and may seek CMS's approval of reimbursement requests for the use of their products, <sup>17</sup> or Housey Pharma and iHerb, which may seek Medicare or Medicaid coverage of their botanical products or herbal supplements. <sup>18</sup> You also founded and still hold up to \$5 million of stock in ShareCare, a digital health company that operates an "exclusive in-home care supplemental benefit program" used by 1.5 million Medicare Advantage enrollees. <sup>19</sup> Your relationships with these and other entities will raise serious doubts about your impartiality if you participate in coverage decisions and other matters that impact them. Over a dozen Biden appointees voluntarily agreed to recuse from their former clients' specific-party matters for four years — going beyond the two-year recusal requirement in former President Biden's ethics pledge. <sup>20</sup> You should do the same.

 $\frac{\text{https://extapps2.oge.gov/201/Presiden.nsf/PAS+Index/F871A5EF2296E46285258C3600320A25/\$FILE/Oz\%2C\%20}{\text{Mehmet}\%20\%20\text{finalEA.pdf}}.$ 

<sup>17</sup> Medical Product Outsourcing, "Eko Health Granted Category III CPT Code for AI Heart Disease Detection Platform," Michael Barbella, January 9, 2025, <a href="https://www.mpo-mag.com/breaking-news/eko-health-granted-category-iii-cpt-code-for-ai-heart-disease-detection-platform/">https://www.mpo-mag.com/breaking-news/eko-health-granted-category-iii-cpt-code-for-ai-heart-disease-detection-platform/</a>; Sandbox AQ, "AQMed:

Next-Gen Medical Diagnostics," <a href="https://www.sandboxaq.com/solutions/aqmed">https://www.sandboxaq.com/solutions/aqmed</a>; Fierce Healthcare, "Mayo Clinic taps startup SandboxAQ to study new tech—quantum sensing and AI—for cardiac diagnostics," Heather Landi, August 8, 2024, <a href="https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/ai-and-machine-learning/mayo-clinic-taps-startup-sandboxaq-study-new-tech-quantum-sensing-and-ai">https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/ai-and-machine-learning/mayo-clinic-taps-startup-sandboxaq-study-new-tech-quantum-sensing-and-ai</a>; Letter from Mehmet Oz to Designated Agency Ethics Official Randall Hall ("Ethics Agreement"), February 16, 2025, p. 2-3,

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<sup>18</sup> New York Times, "Dr. Oz, Trump's Medicare Nominee, Pledges to Sell Health Stocks," Susanne Craig and Reed Abelson, February 19, 2025, <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/19/health/mehmet-oz-medicare-medicaid-stocks.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/19/health/mehmet-oz-medicare-medicaid-stocks.html</a>; PRWeb, "Bristol Myers Squibb Licenses Patented Drug-Discovery Platform Technologies From Housey Pharma," Housey Pharmaceutical Research Laboratories, LLC, May 5, 2021,

https://www.prweb.com/releases/Bristol Myers Squibb Licenses Patented Drug Discovery Platform Technologies From Housey Pharma/prweb17913394.htm; Insurance News Net, "Oz pledges to divest from HCA Healthcare and UnitedHealth if confirmed," February 20, 2025, <a href="https://insurancenewsnet.com/oarticle/oz-pledges-to-divest-from-hca-healthcare-and-unitedhealth-if-">https://insurancenewsnet.com/oarticle/oz-pledges-to-divest-from-hca-healthcare-and-unitedhealth-if-</a>

confirmed#:~:text=He%20said%20in%20the%20filing%20he%20would,and%20sell%20his%20shares%20in%20the %20companies; Letter from Mehmet Oz to Designated Agency Ethics Official Randall Hall ("Ethics Agreement"), February 16, 2025, p. 2-3,

 $\frac{\text{https://extapps2.oge.gov/201/Presiden.nsf/PAS+Index/F871A5EF2296E46285258C3600320A25/\$FILE/Oz\%2C\%20}{\text{Mehmet}\%20\%20\tilde{\textbf{finalEA.pdf}}}.$ 

<sup>19</sup> Yahoo Finance, "Dr. Oz Exposed for Colossal, Multimillion-Dollar Conflict of Interest," Edith Olmstead, December 13, 2024, <a href="https://finance.yahoo.com/news/dr-oz-exposed-colossal-multimillion-221028104.html">https://finance.yahoo.com/news/dr-oz-exposed-colossal-multimillion-221028104.html</a>; Common Dreams, "Dr. Oz Had Up to Tens of Millions Invested in Companies Involved With CMS," Jessica Corbet, December 13, 2024, <a href="https://www.commondreams.org/news/dr-oz">https://www.commondreams.org/news/dr-oz</a>.

<sup>20</sup> Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren, "In Response to Senator Warren, FDA Commissioner Nominee Dr. Robert Califf Makes Strongest Ethics Commitments of Any Senior Biden Administration Official," January 31, 2022, <a href="https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/-in-response-to-senator-warren-fda-commissioner-nominee-dr-robert-califf-makes-strongest-ethics-commitments-of-any-senior-biden-administration-official; Office of Senator

Third, you should commit to not work for any company that you regulate or otherwise interact with while serving as CMS Administrator, for at least four years after leaving office. For example, if you were to seek a paid sponsorship agreement with a pharmaceutical company that is subject to CMS drug price negotiations, as you have done before, <sup>21</sup> the public would reasonably question whether, during your time at CMS, you secured the best deal possible for taxpayers and patients, or let the company off the hook to sweeten your post-government arrangement. You should follow the example of multiple previous heads of HHS agencies who agreed to a cooling-off period before going to work for the regulated industry, such former FDA Commissioner Robert Califf, who agreed to not seek compensation from any pharmaceutical or medical device company that he interacted with during his time in government for four years, or former NIH Director Monica Bertagnolli who agreed not to work for "any pharmaceutical company with annual revenues at or above \$10 billion" for four years. <sup>22</sup> Even Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who refused to give up some of his egregious conflicts, still agreed to not work for a drug company after leaving office. <sup>23</sup> By agreeing to a cooling off period, you can mitigate concerns about your potential conflicts of interest in this role.

Relatedly, you should commit to not lobby CMS for at least four years after leaving office. The rampant revolving door of former government leaders lobbying the agencies they once led, while their government relationships remain fresh, erodes Americans' faith in the federal government. To mitigate that concern, multiple Biden appointees agreed to a post-employment lobbying ban, including Treasury Assistant Secretary for Investment Security Paul Rosen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Charles Q. Brown, and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.<sup>24</sup> You should commit to

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National Public Radio, "TV's Dr. Oz invested in businesses regulated by the agency Trump wants him to run," Darius Tahir, November 22, 2024, <a href="https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2024/11/22/nx-s1-5201663/trump-dr-oz-investments-cms">https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2024/11/22/nx-s1-5201663/trump-dr-oz-investments-cms</a>.

interest-profiting-from-anti-vaccine-conspiracies.

Elizabeth Warren, "At Hearing, Senator Warren Announces Strong Ethics Commitments from Federal Reserve Vice Chair for Supervision Nominee Michael Barr," May 19, 2022, <a href="https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/at-hearing-senator-warren-announces-strong-ethics-commitments-from-federal-reserve-vice-chair-for-supervision-nominee-michael-barr.">https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/at-hearing-senator-warren-announces-strong-ethics-commitments-from-federal-reserve-vice-chair-for-supervision-nominee-michael-barr.</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Washington Post, "Potential conflicts of interest may haunt Dr. Oz's confirmation to run Medicare, Medicaid," Desmond Butler, Lauren Weber, and Caitlin Gilbert, December 2, 2024, https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/12/02/dr-oz-medicare-medicaid-ozempic-conflicts/;

Letter from Director NIH Nominee Monica Bertagnolli to Senator Elizabeth Warren, August 11, 2023, <a href="https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Bertagnolli%20Letter%20to%20Senator%20Warren%2008.2023.pdf">https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Bertagnolli%20Letter%20to%20Senator%20Warren%2008.2023.pdf</a>; Letter from Ambassador to the OECD Nominee Sean Patrick Maloney to Senator Elizabeth Warren, February 9, 2024, <a href="https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Signed%20Warren%20Letter.pdf">https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Signed%20Warren%20Letter.pdf</a>; Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren, "In Response to Senator Warren's Questions, Secretary of Defense Nominee General Lloyd Austin Commits to Recusing Himself from Raytheon Decisions for Four Years," press release, January 19, 2021, <a href="https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/in-response-to-senator-warrens-questions-secretary-of-defense-nominee-general-lloyd-austin-commits-to-recusing-himself-from-raytheon-decisions-for-four-years;">https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/in-response-to-senator-warren-federal-reserve-nominees-make-historic-ethics-commitments.</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Office of U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, "At Hearing, Warren Slams RFK Jr. for Dangerous Conflicts of Interest, Profiting From Anti-Vaccine Conspiracies," press release, January 29, 2025, https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/at-hearing-warren-slams-rfk-ir-for-dangerous-conflicts-of-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> "In Response to Senator Warren's Questions, Secretary of Defense Nominee General Lloyd Austin Commits to Recusing Himself from Raytheon Decisions for Four Years," press release, January 19, 2021,

not lobbying the CMS for at least four years after leaving office, either as a formal registered lobbyist or informal "shadow lobbyist" — given that former high-level officials can leverage their influence not only by directly lobbying but through facilitating others to do so.

By making these commitments, you would increase Americans' trust in your ability to serve the public interest during your time at CMS — rather than the special interests of companies in your network. To help Congress and the American people better understand the scope of your potential conflicts of interest and how you plan to mitigate them, I request that you reply to the following questions in writing prior to any vote on your confirmation:

- 1. Please list all health-related companies that have paid you, either directly or through an entity with which you are affiliated, to promote their products or services in the past 5 years. For each payment, specify how much you have been paid, the dates of payments, and the entity to which the payment was made.
  - a. Do you plan to continue receiving any such payments for future or past promotional services while at CMS?
- 2. Do you plan to continue posting content that promotes any health company's product or service to your website, YouTube channel, social media page, or any other media platform while serving at CMS?
  - a. Will you commit to not promote health-related products or services via any media outlet while at CMS, to avoid a conflict of interest or the appearance thereof?
- 3. Please list any active media platforms that you own.
  - a. Do you plan to continue speaking about health-related matters on any media platform you own while serving at CMS?
  - b. Given that your leadership position at CMS could drive viewers to your platforms in ways that could enrich you, please describe any steps you will take to cease or alter your media appearances on platforms you own.
- 4. Will you divest or forfeit all vested and unvested restricted stock units and any other form of equity in iHerb before taking office?
- 5. Do you plan to seek a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b) so that you can perform work related to health care companies in which you are invested, while you still own those investments for up to 90 days after taking office?

https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/in-response-to-senator-warrens-questions-secretary-of-defense-nominee-general-lloyd-austin-commits-to-recusing-himself-from-raytheon-decisions-for-four-years; Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren, "Questions for Mr. Paul M. Rosen, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security, Department of the Treasury, from Senator Elizabeth Warren," https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/paul rosen -

<sup>&</sup>lt;u>revised\_responses\_to\_questions\_for\_the\_record\_from\_senator\_warren.pdf;</u> Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren, "At Hearing, Warren Secures Ethics Commitment Joint Chiefs of Staff Nominee General Brown; Reiterates Concern over Senior Military Holds," press release, July 11, 2023 <a href="https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/at-hearing-warren-secures-ethics-commitment-joint-chiefs-of-staff-nominee-general-brown-reiterates-concern-over-senior-military-holds">https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/at-hearing-warren-secures-ethics-commitment-joint-chiefs-of-staff-nominee-general-brown-reiterates-concern-over-senior-military-holds</a>.

- 6. Please describe the work of iHerb Oz Partners LLC and the precise relationship between iHerb LLC and iHerb Oz Partners LLC.
- 7. Please describe in detail the work of each of the following: Oz Works LLC, Zoco Productions LLC, Oz Parents Apartments LLC, Oz Property Holdings LLC, and Oz Media LLC.
  - a. Your ethics agreement notes: "I will not at any time receive compensation for services that I perform during my Federal appointment." However, during your time at CMS, do you plan to receive compensation for services that you performed for any of these entities *before* your federal appointment?
- 8. Please describe your understanding of how the following entities' work relate to the work of CMS: SandboxAQ, Housey Pharma, EKO Health Inc., iHerb, LLC, and Cardiology Partners Co., LP.
- 9. Will you commit to recuse yourself from all particular matters involving your former clients and employers for at least four years?
- 10. Will you commit to not seeking employment, board membership with, or another form of compensation from any company that you regulated or otherwise interacted with while at CMS, for at least four years after leaving office?
- 11. Will you commit to not lobbying CMS either as a formal registered lobbyist or informal "shadow lobbyist" for at least four years after leaving office?

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Warren United States Senator