

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 10, 2025

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Health and Human Service Department
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

We write regarding recent reports that you attended several unofficial, million-dollar dinners with Big Pharma and other healthcare executives at President Trump’s Mar-a-Lago club,¹ despite promising to “clean up corruption” and “stop the revolving door between industry and government” as the Health and Human Service Department (HHS)’s new Secretary.²

“First came the pharmaceutical executives,” according to reporting by the Wall Street Journal, which revealed that over the past few months, healthcare executives wrote checks for millions of dollars to attend at least six private dinners with President Trump in the “gold-covered, chandeliered dining room” at his Mar-a-Lago club.³ President Trump’s “lucrative moneymaking ventures” paid off almost immediately: “[s]ince the dinners, Trump has publicly embraced arguments he heard from the executives.”⁴ According to the Journal, you attended “several” of those dinners, “but largely stayed quiet.”⁵ In the wake of these reports, I am writing regarding your promises to beat back the undue influence of the pharmaceutical industry over our government.

You’ve long called out Big Pharma for foul play and pushed several proposals to beat back the industry’s influence over Americans and their health decisions. In September 2024, you wrote that the Trump Administration should “review direct-to-consumer pharmaceutical ad guidelines” so that pharmaceutical companies can’t advertise directly to the public,⁶ bar USDA Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee from “making money from food or drug companies,” and cap drug prices “so that companies can’t charge Americans substantially more than Europeans pay.”⁷

¹ Wall Street Journal, “Inside Trump’s Million-Dollar Dinners With Healthcare Executives,” Josh Dawsey and Anna Wilde Mathews, February 18, 2025, <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-mar-o-lago-corporate-dinners-healthcare-executives-a8f171b0>.

² Tweet by Robert F. Kennedy, November 14, 2024, <https://x.com/RobertKennedyJr/status/1857198805919138235?lang=en>.

³ Wall Street Journal, “Inside Trump’s Million-Dollar Dinners With Healthcare Executives,” Josh Dawsey and Anna Wilde Mathews, February 18, 2025, <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-mar-o-lago-corporate-dinners-healthcare-executives-a8f171b0>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Wall Street Journal, “Opinion: Trump Can Make America Healthy Again,” Robert F. Kennedy Jr., September 5, 2024, <https://www.wsj.com/opinion/trump-can-make-america-healthy-again-rfk-jr-reforms-chronic-disease-crisis-a9b4b8c0>.

⁷ *Id.*

During your Senate confirmation process, you even expressed support for “marching in” on Big Pharma’s drug patents that were developed with taxpayer funds,⁸ an authority I have consistently urged HHS to use.⁹

When President Trump nominated you to serve as HHS Secretary in November 2024, you vowed to work to “clean up corruption” and “stop the revolving door between industry and government.”¹⁰ President Trump himself told you that one of your main goals would be to “clean up corruption.”¹¹ Again last month, at your swearing-in ceremony, you reiterated that you would “end the corruption, end the corporate capture” of regulatory agencies like HHS by Big Pharma, promising to get rid of people on regulatory panels that have conflicts of interest, and providing “radical transparency.”¹²

It is unclear why you attended private dinners with Big Pharma executives at President Trump’s Mar-a-Lago club following your promises to “clean up corruption” and “stop the revolving door between industry and government.”¹³ Although the reports suggest that you “largely stayed quiet as Trump and others talked,”¹⁴ the dinners may have served as an opportunity for Big Pharma to gain insider access to both you and President Trump.

Big Pharma stands to profit immensely from a second Trump Administration, especially if they can convince you and President Trump to abandon policies like Medicare drug price negotiations and patent reform that would save Americans hundreds of billions of dollars on lifesaving drugs.¹⁵ Indeed, the executives that attended these dinners have called on him to “pause drug negotiations”¹⁶ – negotiations that are expected to save taxpayers \$100 billion by 2032.¹⁷

According to reporting, President Trump “raised millions of dollars from [health care] executives after he asked top officials from the drug industry’s trade group, PhRMA, and others to help his campaign.”¹⁸ In a statement, PhRMA said it “look[s] forward to working with the Trump

⁸ Politico, “RFK Jr. says he’s open to seizing drug patents,” Sophia Cai and Adam Cancryn, January 27, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/01/27/rfk-jr-health-drug-pricing-00200830>.

⁹ Letter from Senators Warren, Doggett, King, 75 Lawmakers to the Departments of Commerce and Health and Human Services, February 6, 2024, <https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Bayh-Dole%20Interagency%20Guidance%20Comment%20Letter%20FINAL%202.6.24.pdf>.

¹⁰ Tweet by Robert F. Kennedy, November 14, 2024, <https://x.com/RobertKennedyJr/status/1857198805919138235?lang=en>.

¹¹ Bio Pharma Dive, “What RFK Jr.’s influence on Trump could mean for pharma,” November 8, 2024, Amy Baxter, <https://www.biopharmadive.com/news/rfk-jr-trump-administration-pharma-fda-policies-views/732367/>.

¹² YouTube, “Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Sworn in as Health and Human Services (HHS) secretary,” ANI News, February 13, 2025, 6:59:47 – 7:00:11, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rm67vhGun88>.

¹³ Tweet by Robert F. Kennedy, November 14, 2024, <https://x.com/RobertKennedyJr/status/1857198805919138235?lang=en>.

¹⁴ Wall Street Journal, “Inside Trump’s Million-Dollar Dinners With Healthcare Executives,” Josh Dawsey and Anna Wilde Mathews, February 18, 2025, <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-mar-o-lago-corporate-dinners-healthcare-executives-a8f171b0>.

¹⁵ Letter from Senators Warren, Wyden, and Sanders to President Trump, January 21, 2025, https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/final_-_warren_wyden_sanders_letter_to_trump_re_ira_negotiations.pdf; Letter from Senator Warren and Congresswoman Jayapal to United States Patent and Trademark Office, April 26, 2023, <https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2023.04.26%20Letter%20to%20USPTO%20re%20patent%20abuses1.pdf>.

¹⁶ Letter from Senators Warren, Wyden, and Sanders to President Trump, January 21, 2025, https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/final_-_warren_wyden_sanders_letter_to_trump_re_ira_negotiations.pdf.

¹⁷ The Commonwealth Fund, “How Prices for the First 10 Drugs Up for U.S. Medicare Price Negotiations Compare Internationally,” Evan D. Gumas, Paige Huffman, Irene Papanicolas, and Reginald D. Williams II, January 4, 2024, <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/2024/jan/how-prices-first-10-drugs-medicare-negotiations-compare-internationally>.

administration.”¹⁹ PhRMA officials met again with President Trump late last month, indicating that it was a “productive conversation,” and had a follow up meeting scheduled to lobby the President to weaken drug price negotiations.²⁰

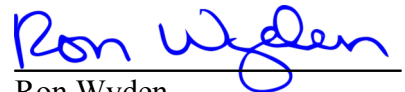
Given your promises to “end the corporate capture” of HHS by pharmaceutical companies and provide “radical transparency,”²¹ you owe the American public an explanation for why you took part in PhRMA’s influence-peddling events with President Trump, what happened at these meetings, and whether they will affect your commitment to ensuring that Americans receive the relief they deserve from high drug prices. With this in mind, we request answers to the following questions by March 24, 2025:

1. How many private meetings have you attended with pharmaceutical industry executives since November 2024?
 - a. Please provide the dates, location, and attendees to each meeting, and the duration of the meeting.
2. What was discussed at these meetings?
 - a. Were Medicare drug price negotiations discussed?
 - b. Were international reference pricing policies discussed?
 - c. Was patent reform discussed?
 - d. Were other government powers to lower prescription drug prices including March-in rights or Section 1498 discussed?
3. What commitments did the executives seek from you at these meetings?
 - a. Did you or President Trump make any commitments? If so, what were they?
4. Please disclose the amount of money that industry executives paid to attend each of the six dinners hosted by President Trump at Mar-a-Lago club.
5. Have you or your campaign receive any payments from pharmaceutical companies, trade groups, or employees between November 2024 and the present?

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

¹⁸ Wall Street Journal, “Inside Trump’s Million-Dollar Dinners With Healthcare Executives,” Josh Dawsey and Anna Wilde Mathews, February 18, 2025, <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-mar-o-lago-corporate-dinners-healthcare-executives-a8f171b0>.

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ Bloomberg Law, “Pharma Leaders to Meet Trump in Push to Tweak Drug Policies,” Damian Garde, Madison Muller, and Josh Wingrove, February 18, 2025, <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/health-law-and-business/pharma-leaders-to-meet-trump-in-push-to-tweak-drug-policies>.

²¹ YouTube, “Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Sworn in as Health and Human Services (HHS) secretary,” ANI News, February 13, 2025, 6:59:47 – 7:00:11, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rn67vhGun88>.

Bernard Sanders

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator