

Whereas, in April 2025, the Secretary made crude, misleading, and ableist comments about individuals on the autism spectrum, offensively and incorrectly stating that they, “will never pay taxes, they’ll never hold a job, they’ll never play baseball, they’ll never write a poem, they’ll never go on a date”;

Whereas reports have surfaced that the Secretary has directed the National Institutes of Health to launch an “autism registry” to track Americans with the disability, likely in violation of Federal privacy laws;

Whereas the Secretary hired Andrew Downing, who has made a career out of vaccine injury lawsuits, including receiving financial compensation through litigation against the human papillomavirus vaccine, to begin “revolutionizing the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program”, and the Secretary also awarded Downing’s law firm a \$250,000 contract to support this effort, upending the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program could severely curb vaccine access across the Nation;

Whereas the Secretary has hired discredited vaccine skeptic David Geier as a data analyst to examine the long-debunked and harmful theory that links vaccines to autism, continuing to distort the public understanding of autism;

Whereas during his confirmation hearing before the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, Senator Hassan summarized the danger of Robert F. Kennedy’s words and actions best: “The problem with this witness’ response on the autism cause, and the relationship to vaccines, is because he is re-litigating and churning settled science, so we cannot go forward and find out what the cause of autism is, and treat these kids, and help these families”;

Whereas leading national autism organizations released a joint statement in April 2025, on the importance of upholding scientific integrity with evidence-based research and investments in diverse supports for the autism community, rejecting Robert F. Kennedy’s rhetoric that “autism is preventable”, his framing of autism as a “chronic disease”, “childhood disease”, or “epidemic”, and his perpetuation of the myth that vaccines cause autism;

Whereas, on August 27, 2025, the White House and Secretary Kennedy fired Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Susan Monarez, just 30 days after her Senate confirmation, after the Director “refused to rubber-stamp unscientific, reckless directives and fire dedicated health experts”, and according to reporting, the Secretary was insisting that the Director approve all new recommendations from his hand-picked ACIP panel, regardless of the science behind the decisions;

Whereas, in the same week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director was fired, 4 high-level leaders and scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention submitted their resignations because of the chaos caused by the Secretary, including Director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, Director of the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Dr. Daniel Jernigan, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Debra Houry;

Whereas Dr. Daskalakis wrote in his scathing resignation letter that he is “unable to serve in an environment that treats CDC as a tool to generate policies and materials that do not reflect scientific reality and are designed to hurt rather than to improve the public’s health”;

Whereas these are just the latest in a series of high-profile leaders, scientists, and subject matter experts to be either directly pushed out by the Secretary or forced to leave due to the toxic, chaotic, and untenable environment created by the Secretary within the Department, and his politicization of science;

Whereas, in August 2025, more than 750 Federal health employees, including hundreds of current Department staff wrote to Kennedy imploring him to “stop spreading inaccurate health information” and accusing him of “sowing public mistrust by questioning the integrity and morality of CDC’s workforce”, they suggested that Kennedy’s actions have worsened Americans’ health and safety and are, at least in part, responsible for the recent shooting at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas, in less than a year in his role as the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has demonstrated a pattern of deception, perpetuating erroneous and even dangerous statements that have eroded public trust in the Department, Federal health agencies, and scientific research;

Whereas a report by the Senate Finance Committee found that the Secretary has directly taken, directed, or enabled hundreds of actions over the course of every day of his tenure that put Americans’ health at risk, by decimating and threatening the critical staff and programs at the Department, destabilizing gold-standard research, and weaponizing advisory panels and systems to undermine trust in and access to vaccines;

Whereas, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has been negligent towards his statutory duty to provide for and enhance the health and well-being of all Americans, taking actions that have dismantled the public health system, defying the many statutes that govern the Department’s programs and appropriate funding for the Department to administer such programs, and intentionally undercutting the will of Congress;

Whereas Robert F. Kennedy Jr. regularly disregards the rule of law and co-opts the Office of the Secretary, using the Department and its resources as a means of personal gain for his agenda, and the financial gain of his family, his associates, and former organization; and

Whereas the role of the Secretary of Health and Human Services is to be a trusted leader and an authority on science and evidence-based health policies for the American public; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that Secretary Robert Francis Kennedy Jr. no longer holds the confidence of the Senate or of the American people to faithfully carry out his duties as Secretary of Health and Human Services, and thus should be removed from office.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3770. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3771. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3772. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3773. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3774. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3775. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3776. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3777. Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3778. Mr. MULLIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3779. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3780. Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3781. Ms. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3782. Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3783. Mr. KELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3784. Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. CORTON, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3785. Ms. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3786. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3787. Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3788. Mr. RICKETTS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3789. Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Ms. ERNST) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3790. Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3791. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3792. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3793. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3794. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3795. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3796. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3770. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 1228(a), strike “The Secretary of Defense” and all that follows through “United States Code,” and insert “The Secretary of Defense and each head of an element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) shall provide intelligence support, including information, intelligence, and imagery collection authorized under applicable provisions of law, including title 10, United States Code, and the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.),”.

SA 3771. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____ EPSTEIN FILES TRANSPARENCY.

(a) RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO JEFFREY EPSTEIN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall make publicly available in a searchable and downloadable format all unclassified records, documents, communications, and investigative materials in the possession of the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and each United States Attorney’s Office, that relate to—

(A) Jeffrey Epstein, including all investigations, prosecutions, or custodial matters;

(B) Ghislaine Maxwell;

(C) any flight logs or travel records, including manifests, itineraries, pilot records, and customs or immigration documentation, for any aircraft, vessel, or vehicle owned, operated, or used by Jeffrey Epstein or any related entity;

(D) any individuals, including government officials, named or referenced in connection with the criminal activities, civil settlements, immunity or plea agreements, or investigatory proceedings of Jeffrey Epstein;

(E) any corporate, nonprofit, academic, or governmental entities with known or alleged ties to the trafficking or financial networks of Jeffrey Epstein;

(F) any immunity deals, non-prosecution agreements, plea bargains, or sealed settlements involving Jeffrey Epstein or his associates;

(G) any internal Department of Justice communications, including emails, memoranda, and meeting notes, concerning decisions to charge, not charge, investigate, or decline to investigate Jeffrey Epstein or his associates;

(H) any communications, memoranda, directives, logs, or metadata concerning the destruction, deletion, alteration, misplacement, or concealment of documents, recordings, or electronic data related to Jeffrey Epstein, his associates, his detention and death, or any investigative files; or

(I) any documentation of the detention or death of Jeffrey Epstein, including incident reports, witness interviews, medical examiner files, autopsy reports, and written records detailing the circumstances and cause of death.

(2) PROHIBITED GROUNDS FOR WITHHOLDING.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Attorney General may not withhold from publication, delay the publication of, or redact any record, document, communication, or investigative material on the basis of embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity, including to any government official, public figure, or foreign dignitary.

(3) PERMITTED WITHHOLDINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Attorney General may withhold from publication any record, document, communication, or investigative material, or redact any segregable portion of any record, document, communication, or investigative material, that—

(i) contains personally identifiable information from the personal or medical file of a victim or child witness, including information the publication of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(ii) depicts or contains child pornography, as defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code;

(iii) would jeopardize an active Federal investigation or ongoing Federal prosecution, if the withholding or redaction is narrowly tailored and temporary;

(iv) depicts or contains any image of the death, physical abuse, or injury of any person; or

(v) contains information that is specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and is properly classified pursuant to that Executive order.

(B) REDACTIONS.—The Attorney General shall publish in the Federal Register and submit to Congress a written justification for each redaction under subparagraph (A).

(C) DECLASSIFICATION TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall declassify, to the maximum extent possible, any information that the Attorney General would otherwise withhold or redact as classified information under this subsection.

(ii) UNCLASSIFIED SUMMARY.—If the Attorney General determines that information described in clause (i) may not be declassified and made available in a manner that protects the national security of the United States, including methods or sources related to national security, the Attorney General shall make publicly available an unclassified summary of the information.

(D) CLASSIFICATION OF COVERED INFORMATION.—The Attorney General shall publish in the Federal Register and submit to Congress each decision made after July 1, 2025, to classify any information that would otherwise be required to be made publicly available under paragraph (1), including the date of classification, the identity of the classifying authority, and an unclassified summary of the justification for classification.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 15 days after making publicly available all records, documents, communications, and investigative materials under subsection (a)(1), the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report containing—

(1) a list of each category of records, documents, communications, and investigative materials made publicly available or withheld;

(2) a summary of the redactions made, including the legal basis upon which the redactions were made; and

(3) a list of each government official, public figure, or foreign dignitary named or referenced in the records, documents, communications, and investigative materials made publicly available, without redaction in accordance with subsection (a)(2).

SA 3772. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:—

SEC. 1230B. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM EASTERN EUROPE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act may be obligated or expended for the withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces from multinational battle groups in eastern member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, including Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, and Romania, except as required for routine rotational movements, while maintaining not fewer than the number of forces and the types of capabilities present in such countries as of January 1, 2025, until the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that indicates whether the following conditions have been met:

(1) The Russian Federation has withdrawn its military forces from occupied territories in Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova.

(2) The Russian Federation no longer has ambitions to control territory of sovereign neighbors in its near abroad.

(3) The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State have appropriately consulted with the leaders of such multinational battlegroups and with the governments of each member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization with respect to such withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces.

(b) SUBSEQUENT REPORT.—In the case of a report under subsection (a) indicating that the conditions described in that subsection have not been met, not later than 30 days