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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6200

November 10, 2026

Gavin De Becker
Gavin de Becker & Associates
7970 Fredericksburg Rd, Suite 101 #343
San Antonio, TX 78229

Dear Mr. De Becker,

We write to seek additional information about your conspicuous gifts to Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. According to public reports, Secretary Kennedy has received and accepted the following gifts from you:

- $126,000: the value of lodging at your home in Washington, DC;
- $97,000: the value of airfare to Fiji that you provided him in November 2025;
- $45,000: the value of airfare to Greece that you provided him in July 2025.[1]

Offering more than $250,000 of luxury gifts to a high-level government official raises questions about your motives and about his impartiality (or lack thereof). The Senate Committee on Finance has jurisdiction over federal taxation as well as Medicare, Medicaid, and dozens of other programs at the Department of Health and Human Services currently overseen by Secretary Kennedy; the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) has broad jurisdiction over public health, and the HELP Committee also oversaw Secretary Kennedy's confirmation process. We have a longstanding legislative interest in the schemes that wealthy Americans use to influence government officials as well as schemes to reduce taxable income. In

1 Neil Mehta, *RFK Jr. Got Free Flights to Fiji and Greece From a Top Donor,* Wall Street Journal, Sept. 18, 2026, https://www.wsj.com/politics/rfk-jr-got-free-flights-to-fiji-and-greece-from-a-top-donor-e4b8d525; *see also* Christina Jewett and Sheryl Gay Stolberg, *Kennedy Drew $4 Million in Book Advances From Publisher Who Also Monetized MAHA*, New York Times, Sept. 23, 2026, https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/23/us/politics/rfk-jr-book-advances-maha.html; *see also* Brittany Gibson, *RFK Jr.'s PAC returned millions to a donor. Campaign experts say that's highly unusual*, Politico, Feb. 13, 2024, https://www.politico.com/news/2024/02/13/bridge-funding-rfk-jr-super-pac-00141260.

this specific instance, we have questions that fall into two areas of inquiry: whether your gifts were given lawfully–in accordance with federal ethics rules and with the Internal Revenue Code, and whether they may influence Secretary Kennedy's decision-making or the performance of his official duties.

Federal ethics rules clearly state that Executive Branch officials may not accept gifts from any "prohibited source." Prohibited sources include anyone who "conducts activities regulated by the employee's agency" or who "has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the employee's official duties."[2] It seems abundantly clear from simple facts that you are a prohibited source and that Secretary Kennedy cannot accept gifts from him while he serves as Secretary. We are aware that you claim to have a close personal friendship with the Secretary, but whether or not that is true, you have very recently been a major donor and an employee to him. You contributed $14 million to a political action committee aligned with his former presidential campaign, and you were also compensated by his campaign for services provided.[3] You were in fact his campaign's highest paid employee and single biggest expense item, receiving $1.48 million for security services and travel expenses.[4] Even if you consider Secretary Kennedy a friend, your relationship is not purely personal. You have written about ketamine therapy, which is currently under regulatory review by HHS, and you have published a book that peddles the same anti-vaccine conspiracy theories Secretary Kennedy promotes: *Forbidden Facts: Government Deceit & Suppression About Brain Damage From Childhood Vaccines.*[5] You very much have vested interests in the outcome of decisions he makes as Secretary. As such, he should not be receiving and accepting gifts from you while he serves in this role.

On the issue of proper tax treatment of gifts, the Internal Revenue Code provides, as a general rule, that taxpayers who give gifts above and beyond the annual gift tax exclusion ($19,000 per recipient in 2025) must file a Form 709 gift tax return.[6] The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has also made clear that the gift tax applies to the transferor of a gift, including in cases where the transferor provides for the "use of property" without expecting to receive something of at least equal value in return.[7] Because your relationship with Secretary Kennedy appears to be a hybrid professional and personal one, the Finance Committee seeks to know more about the tax treatment

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2 5 C.F.R. pt. 2635, subpt. B (*Gifts From Outside Sources*) (2026)

3 Evegnia Anastasakos, *RFK Jr. Discloses $250K in Lavish Gifts From Top Donor*, Daily Beast, Sept. 19, 2026, https://www.thedailybeast.com/rfk-jr-discloses-250k-in-free-flights-to-fiji-and-greece (citing OpenSecrets records of De Becker's $14,050,000 contribution to American Values 2024, https://www.opensecrets.org/orgs/summary?id=D000106416).

4 Gibson, *supra* note 1

5 Jewett, *supra* note 1.

6 26 U.S.C. § 2501, 26 CFR § 25.2512-8. *See also* Internal Revenue Service, *Frequently asked questions on gift taxes*, https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/frequently-asked-questions-on-gift-taxes

7 Internal Revenue Service, Publication 950 (Rev. October 2011) *Introduction to Estate and Gift Taxes*, https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p950.pdf (At pg. 3: "You make a gift if you give property (including money), the use of property, or the right to receive income from property without expecting to receive something of at least equal value in return.)

of these luxury gifts, namely whether they have been treated as gifts with an appropriate gift tax paid to the U.S. Treasury, or whether they have been treated as business expenses that reduce your taxable income.

Please provide written responses to the following questions by November 30, 2026:

1. When did you first meet Secretary Kennedy?
2. Have you consulted with legal counsel about federal ethics rules and the lawfulness of giving high-value gifts to Secretary Kennedy?
3. Please provide a comprehensive list of all flights Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. has taken on any aircraft under your control or ownership, or under the control or ownership of any entities in which you are a partner, director, or officer, since April 5, 2023. For each of these flights, please include the following information:
    a. The date, point of departure, and final destination.
    b. The individual or entity that paid for the cost of the flight.
    c. The estimated cost of the flight.
    d. Whether Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. ever made any reimbursements for his travel on this flight–to you, or to another individual or entity who paid for the flight.
    e. The amounts recorded on any financial records or tax documents with respect to the total cost or value of each flight segment and the proportionate amount allocated to each passenger.
    f. For each taxable year in which the relevant aircraft was in service, the percentage of use recorded as qualified business use for tax purposes.
    g. Whether you, or any entity in which you are a partner, director, or officer, depreciated the value of the aircraft to the extent of qualified business use.
    h. Whether you, or any entity in which you are a partner, director, or officer, deducted operating costs (e.g. fuel, labor, food) attributable to the flight or claimed any other tax deductions related to the flight.
    i. Whether you, you, or any entity in which you are a partner, director, or officer, filed a federal gift tax return (Form 709) to reflect that travel on this flight was a gift to Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
    j. For flights that were used for personal reasons as well as mixed use reasons (i.e., both personal and business reasons), whether logs were kept to determine and

substantiate proper income inclusion (e.g., all employee travelers, number of family members or guests accompanying the employee, weight class of the aircraft, distance flown, flight hours, etc.).

4. Please provide a comprehensive list of all dates during which Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. has stayed at a residential real estate property that you own, or that is owned by any entity in which you are a partner, director, or officer, since April 5, 2023. For each stay, please include the following information:

    a. The location of the property.

    b. The dates Kennedy arrived and left.

    c. Whether Kennedy ever paid any reimbursements, or provided any consideration, for this lodging.

Additionally, please provide the following documents to the Democratic staff of the Senate Finance Committee by November 30, 2026:

1. A copy of any Form 709 that you filed for gifts made to Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. in tax years 2023, 2024, or 2025.

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Sincerely,

Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance

Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator