MIKE CRAPO, IDAHO, CHAIRMAN

CHUCK GRASSLEY, IOWA
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
JOHN THUNE, SOUTH DAKOTA
TIM SCOTT, SOUTH CAROLINA
BILL CASSIDY, LOUISIANA
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA
STEVE DAINES, MONTANA
TODD YOUNG, INDIANA
JOHN BARRASSO, WYOMING
RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN
THOM TILLIS, NORTH CAROLINA
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE
ROGER MARSHALL, KANSAS

RON WYDEN, OREGON
MARIA CANTWELL, WASHINGTON
MICHAEL F. BENNET, COLORADO
MARK R. WARNER, VIRGINIA
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND
MAGGIE HASSAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO, NEVADA
ELIZABETH WARREN, MASSACHUSETTS
BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT
TINA SMITH, MINNESOTA
BEN RAY LUJÁN, NEW MEXICO
RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, GEORGIA
PETER WELCH, VERMONT

GREGG RICHARD, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOSHUA SHEINKMAN, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

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

November 10, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

We write to seek clarification regarding your compliance with federal ethics rules. Your spokesperson claims that you "compl[y]with all applicable federal ethics laws, regulations and financial disclosure requirements,"[1] but such a blanket assertion seems impossible to square with the facts. The Wall Street Journal recently reported that in 2025, while serving as Secretary of Health and Human Services, you received more than $250,000 of gifts from a former donor to your presidential campaign.

According to these public reports, you have received and accepted:

- **$126,000**: the value of lodging at Gavin de Becker's home in Washington, DC;
- **$97,000**: the value of airfare to Fiji that Mr. de Becker provided you in November 2025;
- **$45,000**: the value of airfare to Greece that Mr. de Becker provided you in July 2025.[2]

1 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.

2 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* 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

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."[3] It seems abundantly clear that Mr. de Becker is a prohibited source and that you are not permitted to accept gifts from him while you serve as Secretary. Mr. de Becker claims that you are "[his] closest friend in the world for many years,"[4] but whether or not that is true, he has more recently been your major donor and your employee. He contributed $14 million to a political action committee aligned with your presidential campaign, and he was also compensated by your campaign for services provided.[5] He was in fact your campaign's highest paid employee and single biggest expense item, receiving $1.48 million for security services and travel expenses.[6] Even if you consider him a friend, your relationship is not purely personal.

Mr. de Becker now claims he has no business interests with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, but this stated position also seems impossible to square with the facts. He has written about ketamine therapy, which is currently under regulatory review by your agency, and in 2025, he published a book that peddles the same anti-vaccine conspiracy theories you have spent your life promoting: Forbidden Facts: Government Deceit & Suppression About Brain Damage From Childhood Vaccines.[7] Skyhorse Publishing, the company that published de Becker's book, has recently paid you $451,000 for your work as a consultant, and Skyhorse also agreed to provide you with $4 million in book advances in August 2024–the same month in which you suspended your presidential campaign and agreed to support Donald Trump. Mr. de Becker absolutely has vested interests in the outcome of decisions you make as Secretary. As such, he is a prohibited source from whom you cannot lawfully accept gifts.

Having overseen your confirmation process, we already know that you have a history of playing fast and loose with ethics rules. On the topic of your personal financial stakes in vaccine litigation, you made secret changes to your February 1, 2025, ethics agreement without notifying Congress or documenting any approval from the Office of Governmental Ethics.[8] You allowed the United States Senate to vote on your confirmation without disclosing these changes, and you had

---

3 5 C.F.R. pt. 2635, subpt. B (*Gifts From Outside Sources*) (2026)
4 Mehta, *supra* note 2.
5 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).
6 Gibson, *supra* note 2.
7 Jewett, *supra* note 1.
8 *See* Letter from Sens. Warren, Wyden, Blumenthal, and Alsobrooks to Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Sept. 24, 2026, https://www.warren.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Letter-to-Sec.-Kennedy-re-Change-to-Ethics-Agreement.pdf

your staff bury them in a letter to Congress eighteen months later.[9] Perhaps it should come as no surprise that you've been improperly accepting lavish gifts, ducking and dodging federal ethics rules throughout your tenure as Secretary.

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

1. When did you first meet Gavin de Becker?
2. How many nights have you spent staying at Gavin de Becker's home in Washington DC since February 13, 2025?
3. Why do you stay at his home in Washington instead of a home that you own or lease in your own name?
4. What was the purpose of your trip to Greece in July 2025?
5. What was the purpose of your trip to Fiji in November 2025?
6. Have you and Gavin de Becker ever discussed vaccines? If so, please summarize your conversations on this topic.
7. Have you and Gavin de Becker ever discussed ketamine therapy? If so, please summarize your conversations on this topic.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance

Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator

9 *Id.*