COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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November 12, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: *Remove Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. as Secretary for Health and Human Services*

Dear Mr. President:

I urge you to immediately remove Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. as Secretary for Health and Human Services. His failed leadership has led to a series of preventable foodborne illnesses, recalls, and spikes in infectious diseases that have negatively impacted the health of American families and led to unknown billions in preventable costs for our people and businesses.

Elections are good barometers of public opinion and the results of last Tuesday's elections are clear: The American people want change from your Administration.

Secretary Kennedy's tenure has made our nation less safe and it's our people who are suffering the consequences of inconsistent and inaccurate public health guidance, funding cuts, and reduction of critical staff, including food inspectors. As a result, we have seen alarming upticks in illnesses involving Salmonella, E. coli, Listeria monocytogenes, Cyclospora, and Clostridium botulinum. There have been recent recalls and investigations affecting hundreds of products, including infant formula; eye drops; broccoli; prepared pasta meals; cheddar cheese; ricotta cheese; eggs; jalapeños; frozen blueberries; and iceberg lettuce.

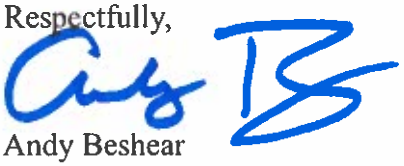
The scale and magnitude of the outbreaks we faced this summer are unprecedented. The 2026 Cyclospora outbreak sickened more than 12,000 people, caused nearly 600 hospitalizations, and led to at least two deaths. Epidemiologists believe it could be among the worst foodborne illness events in U.S. history. Kentucky was among the many states affected.

As Secretary Kennedy spreads dangerous lies and misinformation about vaccines, our nation has seen a resurgence in vaccine-preventable diseases. The worst measles outbreak in decades continues to grow, now with over 4,000 cases. As vaccination rates decline, risk for whooping cough, most dangerous for infants and newborns, is on the rise. Tetanus has recently been at the highest levels in nearly two decades. While more Americans get sick from foodborne illness and treatable disease, Secretary Kennedy has slashed jobs for individuals with careers in public health. At the same time, the number of political appointees has reached record levels.

For these reasons and more, you should remove Secretary Kennedy and appoint someone who will strengthen—not weaken—our nation's vital public health infrastructure, resume and maintain proper food inspections, invest in the scientists and inspectors who protect the American public, and listen to the state and local health officials on the front lines of protecting our citizens.

Kentucky families, and the rest of America, deserve to know their food is safe and our public health institutions are prepared to respond when an outbreak occurs. I hope you will act with the urgency this moment demands.

Respectfully,



Andy Beshear
Governor of Kentucky