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U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
1139 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2026

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

Dr. Mehmet Oz
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244

Re: Medicare data breach on Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' provider directory website

Dear Secretary Kennedy and Administrator Oz:

We write to express our deep concern that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)'s provider directory website exposed Medicare provider Social Security numbers (SSNs).[1] On May 1, 2026, *The Washington Post* reported that the public-facing website you oversee linked SSNs to provider names and "other identifying information" for "dozens" of providers. The mere fact that this sensitive information was sitting on a public website for an unknown period of time raises significant concerns about identity theft for the providers subject to the breach, as well as broader concerns about this Administration's handling of sensitive information. This is the exact type of data that bad actors have used to defraud the Medicare program, and while the agency is working to remedy the problem, the harm has already been done.

This is not the first time we have written to the Trump Administration to demand answers regarding the seemingly reckless handling of sensitive personal information. Ways and Means Democrats have repeatedly raised alarm over the Administration's reckless mishandling of highly sensitive Social Security data, sending multiple letters to the Social Security

[1] https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2026/04/30/medicare-portal-social-security-numbers-exposed/

Administration (SSA) and introducing Resolutions of Inquiry to compel transparency when our requests for information went unanswered.[2] Not only have the responses we have received from our letters been far from satisfactory, but they have also revealed a lack of concern regarding the privacy of Americans' personal data and the integrity of our public programs.

This is also not the first time we have expressed concerns about the flawed rollout of this exact provider directory website. On October 28, 2025, we wrote to you demanding answers about the release of this directory and its "inaccurate, incomplete, and contradictory information" that risked Medicare beneficiaries selecting the wrong plan during Open Enrollment.[3] Not only did you fail to respond to our questions and request that beneficiaries be held harmless for the inaccurate information on the website when making enrollment decisions—but you also proceeded and exposed *additional individuals* to harm. These types of mistakes underscore the reckless nature of this Administration, and it is unforgiveable.

Our staff must immediately be briefed on this data breach. In particular, we demand answers to the following:

1. When and how did CMS and/or Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) staff become aware of the data breach?
2. What was/is the relationship with CMS, HHS, and DOGE in developing and maintaining the provider directory website? Were/are DOGE staff involved? If so, please describe the nature of their involvement.
3. What contractors were used, if any, to develop or maintain the provider directory?
4. Did staff know about the data breach before being alerted by reporters at *The Washington Post*?
5. How long did it take before CMS staff removed the SSNs and other sensitive information from the Medicare provider directory website?
6. How many providers were exposed to this data breach? What has been the process for contacting these providers to alert them to the breach?
7. What sort of remedies is the Administration offering the providers who may have potentially had their identities stolen as a result of the CMS data breach?
8. What steps is CMS taking to ensure that fraudsters will not take advantage of the recklessness of exposing provider SSNs?
9. Were any other data inappropriately posted on the provider directory website? If so, which data?
10. What is CMS doing to ensure this type of episode does not happen again?

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

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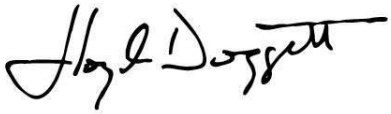
[2] https://suozzi.house.gov/media/press-releases/suozzi-leads-letter-social-security-administration-expresses-alarm-potential; https://democrats-waysandmeans.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/neal-ways-and-means-democrats-warn-social-security-administrator; https://democrats-waysandmeans.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/ranking-members-neal-and-connolly-demand-social-security-abandon; https://democrats-waysandmeans.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/neal-larson-launch-inquiry-ways-and-means-democrats-demanding-trump; https://democrats-waysandmeans.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/neal-larson-demand-answers-and-accountability-ssa-commissioner

[3] https://democrats-energycommerce.house.gov/media/press-releases/democratic-health-leaders-blast-trump-administrations-incompetence-regarding

Sincerely,

The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means



The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health

The Honorable John B. Larson
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Social Security

The Honorable Terri A. Sewell
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight