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Subject: FOIA Request (MULTI-20-0432-0454)
Attachments: MULTI-20-0432-0454.pdf

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Dear FOIA Officers:

Please find attached a request for records under the Freedom of Information Act.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Paralegal

American Oversight

foia@americanoversight.org

www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

FOIA: MULTI-20-0432-0454



March 4, 2020

VIA EMAIL, FOIA ONLINE, ONLINE PORTAL OR FACSIMILE

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Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Officers:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, and the implementing regulations of your agency, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and the disease it causes, COVID-19, has been declared a public health emergency at both the national and international levels.¹ Since late 2019, the virus has spread to dozens of countries, sickened tens of thousands of people, and resulted in thousands of deaths.² This is a rapidly evolving situation that is demanding coordinated attention and action across the federal government. Yet the Trump administration has so far failed to ensure timely availability of testing kits for healthcare providers,³ prevented health experts from speaking about the growing crisis,⁴ and removed information on the spread of the virus from public health resources.⁵

American Oversight seeks records with the potential to shed light on this matter.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that your agency produce the following records within twenty business days:

All final talking points or background materials prepared for any congressional briefings or hearings or press engagements by the leadership officials at your agency specified below regarding the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.

¹ *Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Summary*, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>.

² *Coronavirus Live Updates: W.H.O Says Covid-19 Has Higher Fatality Rate Than the Flu*, N.Y. TIMES, Mar. 4, 2020, https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/04/world/coronavirus-news.html?action=click&pgtype=Article&state=default&module=stylncoronavirus&variant=show®ion=TOP_BANNER&context=storyline_menu.

³ Alice Park, *Responding to Coronavirus Testing Problems, U.S. Government Expands Number of Labs That Can Run Tests* (Mar. 2, 2020, updated 1:50 PM EST), TIME, <https://time.com/5793605/coronavirus-testing-united-states/>.

⁴ Michael Shear and Maggie Haberman, *Pence Will Control All Coronavirus Messaging from Health Officials*, N.Y. TIMES, Feb. 27, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/27/us/politics/us-coronavirus-pence.html>.

⁵ Brianna Ehley, *Trump's Team Shifts Tone from Preventing Coronavirus to Containing It*, POLITICO (Mar. 2, 2020, 7:52 PM), <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/03/02/trump-coronavirus-pence-119051>.



The relevant agency leadership officials are specified below*:

Department of Health and Human Services:

- Secretary Alex Azar
- Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Robert Kadlec
- Assistant Secretary for Health Brett Giroir
- Surgeon General Jerome Adams
- Director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority Rich Bright

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Director Robert Redfield
- Principal Deputy Director Anne Schuchat
- Director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases Nancy Messonnier
- Deputy Director for Infectious Diseases Jay C. Butler

National Institute for Health

- Director Francis Collins
- Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Anthony Fauci

Food and Drug Administration

- Commissioner Stephen Hahn
- Principal Deputy Commissioner Amy Abernethy
- Director of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Janet Woodcock
- Director of the Center for Devices and Radiological Health Jeff Shuren

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

- Administrator Seema Verma
- Deputy Administrator Brady Brookes

Administration for Children and Families

- Assistant Secretary Lynn Johnson
- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Scott Lekan
- Anyone serving in the role of Deputy Assistant Secretary for External Affairs

Department of State

- Secretary Mike Pompeo
- Deputy Secretary Stephen Biegun
- Deputy Assistant Secretary Jonathan Fritz
- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Ian Brownlee
- Executive Director William A. Walters

Department of Defense

- Secretary Mark Esper
- Gen. Mark A. Milley

Department of Homeland Security

- Acting Secretary Chad Wolf
- Acting Deputy Secretary Ken Cuccinelli
- Acting Under Secretary for Science and Technology William Bryan

Customs and Border Patrol

- Acting Commissioner Mark Morgan
- Deputy Commissioner Robert E. Perez

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

- Acting Director Matthew T. Albence

Federal Emergency Management Agency

- Administrator Pete T. Gaynor
- Acting Deputy Administrator Daniel Kaniewski

Department of Transportation

- Secretary Elaine Chao
- Acting Under Secretary for Policy Joel Szabat

Department of Housing and Urban Development

- Secretary Ben Carson

Department of Veterans Affairs

- Secretary Robert Wilkie
- Executive in Charge Richard Stone

Department of Education

- Secretary Betsy DeVos
- Deputy Secretary Mick Zais

Department of Commerce

- Secretary Wilbur Ross
- Deputy Secretary Karen Dunn Kelley

Department of Labor

- Secretary Eugene Scalia
- Deputy Secretary Patrick Pizzella
- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Loren Sweatt

