

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 3, 2023

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

We write to request information regarding federal payments made to The Washington University Transgender Center at St. Louis Children’s Hospital (“the Center”). Recently, a whistleblower who was formerly employed at the Center alleged in a sworn affidavit that the Center may have committed multiple violations of federal law, including by fraudulently billing federally-funded insurance programs. As Members of U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, we have a responsibility to investigate her claims that federal taxpayers may have financed the Center’s activities improperly. Doing so requires a full accounting of every federal dollar that has been provided to the Center since its inception.

As first reported in *The Free Press*, the whistleblower Jamie Reed alleges an extraordinary pattern of abuse and potential malpractice committed by the Center’s staff. Among the various shocking allegations in Ms. Reed’s sworn affidavit is her claim that the Center billed the cost of gender-transition procedures to federally-funded insurance programs—a practice which apparently continues to this day.¹ According to reporting by *The Washington Post*, Ms. Reed “alleged that the center billed some treatments to the federal Medicaid health care program.”²

Furthermore, Ms. Reed alleges that she “personally witnessed [the Center’s] staff report that they were aware that patients had been coded incorrectly” on bills sent to publicly-funded insurance programs.³ In other words, she alleges that the Center committed insurance fraud.

As you may know, the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs is authorized to study and investigate:

the efficiency and economy of operations of all branches of the Government including the possible existence of fraud, misfeasance, malfeasance, collusion, mismanagement, incompetence, corruption or unethical practices, waste, extravagance, conflicts of interest,

¹ https://ago.mo.gov/docs/default-source/press-releases/2-07-2023-reed-affidavit---signed.pdf?sfvrsn=6a64d339_2

² https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/missouri-officials-investigate-transgender-youth-clinic/2023/02/10/50814582-a973-11ed-b2a3-edb05ee0e313_story.html

³ https://ago.mo.gov/docs/default-source/press-releases/2-07-2023-reed-affidavit---signed.pdf?sfvrsn=6a64d339_2, page 22

and the improper expenditure of Government funds in transactions, contracts, and activities of the Government or of Government officials and employees and any and all such improper practices between Government personnel and corporations, individuals, companies, or persons affiliated therewith, doing business with the Government, and the compliance or noncompliance of such corporations, companies, or individuals or other entities with the rules, regulations, and laws governing the various governmental agencies and the Governments relationship with the public.⁴

Accordingly, please provide the following information by no later than March 16, 2023:

1. All copies of bills, grant requests, or any other documents submitted or sent by the Center to the Department of Health and Human Services or any subagency thereof.
2. All receipts of federal disbursements made to the Center by or under any program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services or any subagency thereof.
3. All records concerning or relating in any manner to the Center's application for funding under any program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services or any subagency thereof.
4. All communication, including emails, between the Center's employees and the Department of Health and Human Services or any subagency thereof.

Sincerely,



Josh Hawley
U.S. Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.
U.S. Senator

⁴ S.Res.43 (118th Cong.).