

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

March 24, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Becerra:

We write to follow up on the briefing you provided to Ways and Means Committee staff on March 11, 2021. The briefing was very helpful and informative, and we are grateful that the Department made staff available. As you likely know, we continue to be concerned about policy decisions in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic regarding nursing homes and about whether certain states, including New York and Pennsylvania among others, may have intentionally misled the public and perhaps the federal government regarding COVID-19 related deaths in those facilities.

During the March 11 briefing, we learned that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) used the National Health Safety Network (NHSN) to gather COVID-19 related nursing home data directly from nursing homes across the country. As part of that data collection effort, which began in May 2020, the CDC provided monthly reports to state governments summarizing the data reported directly by nursing homes. Our inquiry into this matter is largely a state-focused issue, but we have one modest request that would assist us in better understanding these issues.

We ask that your Department provide us with all NHSN summary reports that were provided to the following states:

1. New York
2. Pennsylvania
3. Michigan
4. New Jersey
5. California

We have intentionally kept our request narrowly focused so as not to create any unnecessary burden on the agency. During the last Congress and during the Trump Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services consistently produced documents responsive to the requests of the Ways and Means Committee. We hope that this practice will continue at the Department under your leadership.

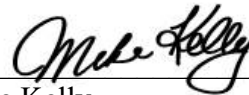
If possible, we would appreciate receiving these documents by April 6, 2021. And if you would like to discuss this request, please contact Rachel Kaldahl (Rachel.Kaldahl@mail.house.gov) or

Sean Clerget (Sean.Clerget@mail.house.gov) on the Ways and Means Committee Republican Oversight staff.

Sincerely,



Kevin Brady
Republican Leader
Committee on Ways and Means



Mike Kelly
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Oversight
Committee on Ways and Means



Devin Nunes
Republican Leader
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Tom Reed
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