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United States Senate

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July 13, 2026

Jamieson Greer
Acting Special Counsel
U.S. Office of Special Counsel
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Dr. Mr. Greer,

I write today to draw your attention to a Hatch Act Complaint I filed with your office, and I ask that the Office of Special Counsel immediately open an investigation into Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. It has come to light that Kennedy unlawfully interfered in at least two Congressional races in Iowa, baiting and bullying third party candidates to drop out of their respective races so that Republicans could have a better chance of winning the seats and maintaining a majority in Congress. Kennedy has spent sixteen months using his official position to undermine the health and well-being of his fellow Americans, and now he is using his official position to undermine the integrity of democratic elections too. He is brazenly corrupt and he must resign. I ask that your office act without delay to investigate his intentional violations of the Hatch Act.

The chronology of Secretary Kennedy's unlawful actions has been reported publicly:

- On **June 8, 2026**, Kennedy made a phone call to Marco Battaglia, a Libertarian candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in Iowa's Third Congressional District, and told him: **"If this seat flips, it'll make my life hell."**¹ This call came one day after Congressman Zach Nunn, a Republican who currently represents the district, visited Battaglia's home,

¹ Samuel Benson, *Battleground Iowa House race takes bizarre turn with alleged RFK Jr. intervention*, Politico, June 15, 2026, https://www.politico.com/news/2026/06/15/iowa-battleground-rfk-zach-nunn-challenger-00962665?utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=dlvr.it

urged him to drop out of the race, and said (according to Battaglia) that if he dropped out, “We’ll make you the poster boy for election integrity, and we’ll hang out with Robert Kennedy Jr.”²

- On **June 11, 2026**, Kennedy called Rick Stewart, another Libertarian candidate for Congress, running in Iowa’s Second Congressional District. Kennedy also asked Stewart to consider dropping out of his race and offered personal assistance with finding another position in government if Stewart agreed to do so: “[There] **may be something that you ought to do in the federal government where you think maybe you can do more for people there, than having, you know, a symbolic run...If you want to work with us, I will be your advocate...You know, I can’t go into specifics because there’s legal prohibitions about that. If it’s something that you want to work on together, there’s other ways that you think you might be effective, like I said, I will be your advocate.**”³ Removing any doubt that Kennedy was acting in his personal capacity, he told Stewart he was acting “**as your liaison with the White House.**”⁴ Stewart recorded Kennedy’s phone call and shared the audio recording with the Washington Post.⁵ Kennedy notably told Stewart that “**I don’t want to be fighting subpoenas for the next two years...For me, you know there’s an immediate pragmatic reason for this phone call.**”⁶

This June 11 phone call is precisely the conduct Congress prohibited when it passed the Hatch Act. Secretary Kennedy called Stewart in his official capacity as a member of the President’s cabinet, and he asked that Stewart suspend his campaign in order to make it easier for the Republican candidate to win the race, easier for the Republican Party to maintain its majority in the House of Representatives, and easier for Kennedy to personally avoid Congressional subpoenas from Democratic committee chairs. Iowa’s voters should be able to freely choose who represents them in Congress, and our democracy does not allow political appointees to take that power away from them by deleting candidates from the ballot. Kennedy’s personal desire to avoid Congressional scrutiny is not a factor in Iowa’s elections, and his attempts to rig the outcome so that he can personally dodge oversight are despotic.

² *Id.*

³ Tom Barton, *RFK Jr. urges another Iowa Libertarian to leave House race, recording shows*, The Gazette, June 25, 2026, https://www.thegazette.com/news/elections/rfk-jr-urges-another-iowa-libertarian-to-leave-house-race-recording-shows/article_17d774a6-03c7-4aec-8f11-efb8b92bb9da.html; see also Dan Diamond and Isaac Arnsdorf, *White House, RFK Jr. tried to push third-party candidates out of tight House races*, Washington Post, June 25, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2026/06/25/rfk-jr-urged-iowa-libertarian-quit-house-race-recording-shows>

⁴ *Id.*

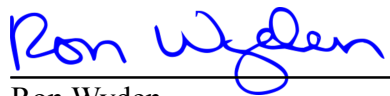
⁵ Dan Diamond and Isaac Arnsdorf, *White House, RFK Jr. tried to push third-party candidates out of tight House races*, Washington Post, June 25, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2026/06/25/rfk-jr-urged-iowa-libertarian-quit-house-race-recording-shows>

⁶ *Id.*

As Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, I have overseen Secretary Kennedy's confirmation process and his tenure at the Department of Health and Human Services since day one. He has broken many promises made during his confirmation hearings, and credible evidence from multiple sources suggests that he has lied to Congress.⁷ He is not a person whose word can be trusted. The quid pro quo offer of federal employment or other personal gain that Kennedy extended to Stewart on the June 11 phone call is conduct expressly prohibited by the Hatch Act, and it also exposes Kennedy to criminal liability under various provisions of federal law.⁸

I ask that your office open an investigation without delay—time and urgency are of the essence. With the White House reportedly dispatching Kennedy as a campaign surrogate across the country⁹, it is likely that Kennedy's election interference activities extend far beyond the two phone calls we know about in Iowa. He must be stopped, and he must be held accountable.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Finance

⁷ See, e.g. Michelle R. Smith, *New evidence casts doubt on RFK Jr testimony before Senate*, The Guardian, June 25, 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jun/25/rfk-jr-senate-testimony-samoa-visit> (Kennedy testified before multiple Congressional committees that his 2019 travels to Samoa “had nothing to do with vaccines,” but recent reporting shows he traveled there, in the words of his own colleague, to “evaluate outcomes associated with the recent discontinuity in vaccinations.”)

⁸ See, e.g. 18 U.S.C. § 595 (providing criminal penalties up to one year in prison for federal government employees who use “official authority for the purpose of interfering with, or affecting, the nomination or the election of any candidate for . . . the House of Representatives”);

18 U.S.C. § 595 (providing criminal penalties up to one year in prison for offering employment, benefits, or special consideration in exchange for political activities in support or opposition of any candidate or party in connection with any general or special election).

⁹ Nathan Weixel and Caroline Vakil, *White House puts RFK Jr. on road ahead of crucial midterms*, The Hill, June 21, 2026, <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/5931217-kennedy-white-house-midterms/>