



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Strategic
Preparedness and Response
Washington, D.C. 20201

August 29, 2025

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Kennedy regarding recent decisions on vaccine development funding by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). I am pleased to respond on Secretary Kennedy's behalf and appreciate your engagement on these critical issues.

HHS remains fully committed to protecting the nation's health security through strategic investment in the development and procurement of medical countermeasures. These efforts are central to our preparedness for, and response to, emerging public health threats.

As part of our responsibility to ensure effective use of public funds, HHS regularly conducts portfolio reviews to ensure that investments align with current risk assessments, scientific progress, and public health priorities. These reviews are rigorous, data-driven, and involve technical, scientific, and programmatic evaluations. In the case of both the avian flu and HIV vaccine programs, decisions were made following such reviews, which considered factors including scientific feasibility, potential duplication with other ongoing initiatives, and the current availability of alternative prevention or treatment strategies.

We remain committed to transparency and welcome continued dialogue with you and your staff. Should you have further questions, please contact Julie Oxner, Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs at ASPR, at 202-603-7879 or Julie.Oxner@hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Knox".

John Knox
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary

CC: The Honorable Tammy Duckworth