

April 1, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr
Secretary
Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

I write following your statement at the Senate Finance Hearing on September 4, 2025 where you said that all of Mr. David Geier's autism study protocols in his work at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) were public. Specifically, at that hearing I asked in reference to Mr. Geier's work, "Mr. Secretary, will you commit to sharing the protocols used for the autism study with Congress and to the public?" and you responded "They are public."¹ After a diligent search and request to your staff, the protocols to the work Mr. Geier is conducting at HHS as a Senior Data Analyst have not been produced nor identified in any public domain. I urge you to make this information public in line with your pledge for radical transparency.

In March 2025, it was reported that David Geier was hired at HHS to analyze potential links between vaccines and autism, a theory that has been extensively studied and repeatedly debunked by the scientific community.² Mr. Geier is a discredited researcher and vaccine skeptic who was disciplined for practicing medicine without a license. He and his father, Mark Geier, have long promoted³ the belief that thimerosal, a preservative that has not been in routine childhood immunizations since 2001, is linked to autism, an assertion that has been thoroughly rejected by rigorous scientific evidence. In 2004, the Institute of Medicine found the Geiers' work to be fundamentally flawed to the point of "making their results uninterpretable" after an extensive review.⁴ It is even more troubling that Mr. Geier previously had access to the Vaccine Safety Datalink in 2004 but had his access revoked because he misused the data.⁵

Given this history, and the absence of transparency surrounding his current work, I have serious concerns about the integrity, scientific rigor, and potential public health implications of Mr. Geier's role at HHS. The Department has a responsibility to ensure that taxpayer-funded research adheres to the highest standards of

¹ Transcript, "Senate Finance Committee Holds Hearing on the President's Health Care Agenda," September 4, 2025.

² Autism Prevalence Is Climbing, but It's Not Due to Vaccines, MedPage Today
<https://www.medpagetoday.com/neurology/autism/113925>

³ Kennedy Turns to a Discredited Vaccine Skeptic for Autism Study, New York Times,
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/27/health/rfk-jr-autism-vaccines.html>

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ HHS abruptly cancels CDC meeting with RFK Jr., anti-vaccine activist as scrutiny mounts, Stat News,
<https://www.statnews.com/2025/09/17/rfk-vaccines-autism-key-data-safety-meeting-canceled/>

scientific validity, transparency, and ethics. This is particularly important on issues as consequential as vaccine safety.

To better understand the scope, methodology, and oversight of Mr. Geier's work at HHS, I request responses to the following questions no later than April 17, 2026:

1. Please provide all study protocols, analysis plans, and methodological documents related to Mr. Geier's work.
2. Please provide all communications with Mr. Geier to HHS officials on this work related to his investigation.
3. What specific research questions is Mr. Geier tasked with investigating?
4. What datasets is he using (e.g., VAERS, VSD, or other federal or private datasets), and what data use agreements are in place to ensure that privacy of the data is maintained?
5. What timeframes and populations are included in his analyses?
6. What statistical methods and study designs are being employed?
7. How is HHS ensuring that the analyses meet established epidemiological and biostatistical standards?
8. Has an independent methodological review been conducted prior to the initiation of this work?
9. Has Mr. Geier engaged any infectious disease, public health or vaccine specialists in his work? Has he engaged any experts in autism research? If so, please name those professionals.
10. What internal or external oversight mechanisms are in place to review Mr. Geier's work?
11. Will the findings be subject to independent peer review prior to any public release?
12. Which offices or officials within HHS are responsible for supervising and approving this work?
13. What steps is HHS taking to ensure that preliminary or non-peer-reviewed findings are not misinterpreted or misused by the public?

At a time when public trust in vaccines remains critical to protecting community health, it is essential that HHS uphold rigorous scientific standards and maintain full transparency in its research activities. Thank you in advance for your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator