

ELISE M. STEFANIK  
21ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK  
CHAIRWOMAN OF HOUSE  
REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

2211 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4611  
stefanik.house.gov

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES  
COMMITTEE

HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT  
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND THE WORKFORCE

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3221

February 10, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

I write to request an immediate federal investigation into credible reports that employees of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health) used taxpayer-funded time, personnel, and facilities to hold a politically motivated meeting that included rhetoric widely understood as hostile toward Israel and Jewish communities. This employee group, called the Global Oppression and Public Health Working Group, held its first meeting during the workday at NYC Health headquarters in Long Island City and virtually. The meeting focused on accusations that Israel is committing “genocide” in the Gaza Strip without context regarding the October 7, 2023 Hamas terror attacks on Israel or the recent rise of antisemitic hate in New York City.<sup>1</sup>

This matter arises at a time when antisemitism in the United States has reached historic highs. According to FBI data, 2024 saw 2,095 incidents of anti-Jewish hate crimes, including assaults, harassment, and vandalism. New York is a hotbed of this scourge of antisemitism, with 463 incidents of anti-Jewish hate crimes in 2024 alone (about 22% of the nationwide total) and with anti-Jewish hate being the most common motivation for hate crimes in New York.<sup>2</sup> This sentiment has become inflamed following the October 7 attacks.

---

<sup>1</sup> Campanile, Carl. “[Mamdani NYC health department staffers launch ‘Global Oppression Working Group’ accusing Israel of genocide.](#)” *New York Post*. February 4, 2026.

<sup>2</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation. “[Hate Crime in the United States Incident Analysis.](#)” Retrieved February 5, 2026.

Simultaneously, the recently inaugurated Mayor Zohran Mamdani has generated national concern with executive actions that reversed prior city policies defining antisemitism and prohibiting city agency boycotts of Israel.<sup>3</sup>

Because NYC Health is a major recipient of federal financial assistance, including funds administered through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), it is bound by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964<sup>4</sup> and implementing regulations.<sup>5</sup> Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, and federal guidance makes clear that recipients may not conduct programs or activities that create a hostile environment for individuals based on protected characteristics, including national origin or ethnicity.

In addition, all federal grant funds are governed by the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards,<sup>6</sup> which require that personnel time and agency resources charged to federal funds be used solely for authorized program purposes and under appropriate internal controls that prevent misuse of funds, facilities, and staff time for unrelated political or ideological advocacy.

If NYC Health employees, while acting in their official capacities and during compensated work time, used federally supported time, resources, or property to advance political or ideological narratives that single out the State of Israel or Jewish people, this could constitute both a Title VI civil rights compliance concern as it fosters or condones a hostile environment for a protected class or national origin group and a misuse of federal funds under OMB Uniform Guidance, as personnel time and agency facilities were used for activities that are not connected to federally authorized public health program objectives.

Accordingly, I request that HHS and the Office of Inspector General:

1. Open a formal investigation into whether federally funded resources, including staff time, equipment, or facilities, were used to organize, host, or promote the reported Global Oppression and Public Health Working Group meeting at NYC Health;
2. Assess compliance with Title VI and related HHS civil rights requirements, including whether the activity created or contributed to a hostile environment for Jewish employees or members of the public;

---

<sup>3</sup> Pazmino, Gloria. "[Mamdani revokes Israel-related executive orders signed by Adams, directs team to focus on housing in first acts as mayor.](#)" *CNN*. January 2, 2026.

<sup>4</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.

<sup>5</sup> 45 C.F.R. Part 80

<sup>6</sup> 2 C.F.R. Part 200

3. Evaluate whether senior NYC Health leadership or external political officials reviewed or approved the activity, and whether proper grant administration and internal controls were followed;
4. Determine whether corrective action, enforcement measures, or recovery of federal funds are appropriate.

The use of federal funds to support or tolerate government-sponsored activities that veer into ideological advocacy or that risk emboldening hate is a grave matter with civil rights and public safety implications. Jewish Americans and all faith communities deserve protection against discrimination, including from actions carried out in the name of public health.

Please provide a briefing for my office no later than 30 days from the date of this letter regarding the status of this inquiry and any preliminary findings.

Sincerely,



Elise M. Stefanik

Chairwoman

House Republican Leadership