

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

To Members of the United States Senate:

We, the undersigned Nobel Laureates, are writing to ask you to oppose the confirmation of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

The proposal to place Mr. Kennedy in charge of the federal agencies responsible for protecting the health of American citizens and for conducting the medical research that benefits our country and the rest of humanity has been widely criticized on multiple grounds. In addition to his lack of credentials or relevant experience in medicine, science, public health, or administration, Mr. Kennedy has been an opponent of many health-protecting and life-saving vaccines, such as those that prevent measles and polio; a critic of the well-established positive effects of fluoridation of drinking water; a promoter of conspiracy theories about remarkably successful treatments for AIDS and other diseases; and a belligerent critic of respected agencies (especially the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control, and the National Institutes of Health). The leader of DHHS should continue to nurture and improve--- not threaten---these important and highly respected institutions and their employees.

In view of his record, placing Mr. Kennedy in charge of DHHS would put the public's health in jeopardy and undermine America's global leadership in the health sciences, in both the public and commercial sectors.

We strongly urge you to vote against the confirmation of his appointment as Secretary of the DHHS.

## 77 Nobel Laureates in Medicine, Chemistry, Physics, and Economics

Name	Category	Prize Year
Peter Agre	Chemistry	2003
Louis E. Brus	Chemistry	2023
Thomas R. Cech	Chemistry	1989
Martin Chalfie	Chemistry	2008
Elias James Corey	Chemistry	1990
Johann Deisenhofer	Chemistry	1988
Joachim Frank	Chemistry	2017
Walter Gilbert	Chemistry	1980
Alan Heeger	Chemistry	2000
Roald Hoffmann	Chemistry	1981
Brian K. Kobilka	Chemistry	2012
Roger D. Kornberg	Chemistry	2006
Robert J. Lefkowitz	Chemistry	2012
Paul L. Modrich	Chemistry	2015
William E. Moerner	Chemistry	2014
Venkatraman Ramakrishnan	Chemistry	2009
Richard R. Schrock	Chemistry	2005
Daron Acemoglu	Economics	2024
George A. Akerlof	Economics	2001
Peter A. Diamond	Economics	2010
Robert F. Engle III	Economics	2003
Lars Peter Hansen	Economics	2013
Sir Oliver Hart	Economics	2016
Simon Johnson	Economics	2024

Finn E. Kydland	Economics	2004
Eric S. Maskin	Economics	2007
William D. Nordhaus	Economics	2018
Edmund S. Phelps	Economics	2006
Harvey J. Alter	Medicine	2020
Victor Ambros	Medicine	2024
David Baltimore	Medicine	1975
J. Michael Bishop	Medicine	1989
Elizabeth H. Blackburn	Medicine	2009
William C. Campbell	Medicine	2015
Mario R. Capecchi	Medicine	2007
Joseph L. Goldstein	Medicine	1985
Carol W. Greider	Medicine	2009
Jeffrey Connor Hall	Medicine	2017
Leland H. Hartwell	Medicine	2001
H. Robert Horvitz	Medicine	2002
Louis J. Ignarro	Medicine	1998
David Julius	Medicine	2021
Eric R. Kandel	Medicine	2000
Ardem Patapoutian	Medicine	2021
Stanley B. Prusiner	Medicine	1997
Charles M. Rice	Medicine	2020
Sir Richard J. Roberts	Medicine	1993
Michael Rosbash	Medicine	2017
Gary Ruvkun	Medicine	2024
Randy W. Schekman	Medicine	2013
Gregg L. Semenza	Medicine	2019
Hamilton O. Smith	Medicine	1978
Jack W. Szostak	Medicine	2009
Susumu Tonegawa	Medicine	1987
Harold E. Varmus	Medicine	1989

Drew Weissman	Medicine	2023	
Eric F. Wieschaus	Medicine	1995	
Torsten N. Wiesel	Medicine	1981	
Michael W. Young	Medicine	2017	
Barry Clark Barish	Physics	2017	
Steven Chu	Physics	1997	
John F. Clauser	Physics	2022	
Jerome I. Friedman	Physics	1990	
Sheldon Glashow	Physics	1979	
David J. Gross	Physics	2004	
John L. Hall	Physics	2005	
J. Michael Kosterlitz	Physics	2016	
Anthony J. Leggett	Physics	2003	
John C. Mather	Physics	2006	
James Peebles	Physics	2019	
H. David Politzer	Physics	2004	
Joseph H. Taylor Jr.	Physics	1993	
Kip Stephen Thorne	Physics	2017	
Daniel C. Tsui	Physics	1998	
Rainer Weiss	Physics	2017	
Robert Woodrow Wilson	Physics	1978	
David J. Wineland	Physics	2012	