

JON TESTER
MONTANA

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING
COMMERCE
INDIAN AFFAIRS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SENATE HART BUILDING
SUITE 311
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
202-224-2644

tester.senate.gov/contact

United States Senate

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Alex M. Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

I write today regarding the three recently passed laws in response to COVID-19 and the importance of strong oversight of the taxpayer dollars being used to confront this crisis. I urge your agency to immediately update its protocols to ensure that appropriated funds are targeted to the most affected businesses and individuals, and that you review and update your procedures as appropriate to prevent and identify any incidents of waste, fraud, and abuse.

Our country faces an unprecedented public health and economic turmoil from the COVID-19 pandemic. Congress is passing aggressive measures to provide real and immediate relief to our health care workers, businesses, workers, and local governments. In recent legislative packages, Congress appropriated significant funds to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to help respond to the spread of COVID-19.

This is a critical time in our nation's history and HHS plays a vital role in our recovery. Given the President's recent removal of the Chairman of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee and trillions of tax payer dollars going out the door, it is critically important for your agency to be fully transparent and open to independent oversight. As you work to implement COVID-19 legislation, I ask that you provide Congress a detailed plan on how HHS plans to execute these funds and what accountability measures are being put in place to ensure our taxpayer dollars are being spent efficiently and effectively.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter. I look forward to your swift response.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

BILLINGS
(406) 252-0550

BOZEMAN
(406) 586-4450

BUTTE
(406) 723-3277

MISSOULA
(406) 728-3003

GREAT FALLS
(406) 452-9585

HELENA
(406) 449-5401

KALISPELL
(406) 257-3360