

Date 4/28/26

Gretchen H. Weaver
Associate General Counsel for Ethics Advice and Policy
Designated Agency Ethics Official
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Room 710-E, Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. Weaver:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is my responsibility to understand and comply with commitments outlined in this agreement.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL COMMITMENTS

As required by the criminal conflicts of interest law at 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the particular matter, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). I understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me:

- Any spouse or minor child of mine;
- Any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner;
- Any organization in which I serve as an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee, even if uncompensated; and
- Any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with an agency ethics official and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict, such as recusal from the particular matter or divestiture of an asset.

If I have a managed account or otherwise use the services of an investment professional during my appointment, I will ensure that the account manager or investment professional obtains my prior approval on a case-by-case basis for the purchase of any assets other than cash, cash equivalents, investment funds that qualify for the regulatory exemption for diversified mutual funds and unit investment trusts at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), or obligations of the United States.

I will receive a live ethics briefing from a member of the ethics office after my confirmation but not later than 15 days after my appointment pursuant to the ethics program regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305. Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will submit my Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance which documents my compliance with this ethics agreement.

I will not modify this ethics agreement without your approval and the approval of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) pursuant to the ethics agreement requirements contained in the financial disclosure regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2634.803(a)(4).

SECTION 2 – KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

I previously resigned from my position as a part-time faculty member at Kennesaw State University in November 2025. Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for a period of one year from the date of my resignation, I will not participate in any particular matter involving specific parties in which Kennesaw State University is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

SECTION 3 – SAFER BEHAVIORS, INC.

My spouse and I co-owned Safer Behaviors, Inc., to manage our consulting work. Upon my initial appointment to HHS, I resigned from my position with this entity and divested my ownership interest, but my spouse continues to operate it. I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of Safer Behaviors, Inc. In addition, pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know a client of mine is a party or represents a party for a period of one year after I last provided service to that client, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d). I also will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know a client of my spouse is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

SECTION 4 – OTHER COMMITMENTS

In order to avoid any potential conflicts of interest during my appointment as Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, I, my spouse, and any minor children of mine, will not acquire any direct financial interests in entities that can be affected by HHS and are involved, directly or through subsidiaries, in the following industries: (1) research, development, manufacture, distribution, processing, storage, or sale of pharmaceutical, biotechnology, or medical devices, equipment, preparations, treatments, or products; (2) veterinary products or cosmetics; (3) health care management or delivery; (4) food and/or beverage production, processing, storage, or distribution; (5) manufacture, marketing, sale and distribution of tobacco products; (6) health, disability, or workers compensation insurance or related services; (7) communications media; (8) computer hardware, computer software, and related internet technologies; (9) wireless communications; (10) social sciences and economic research organizations; (11) energy or utilities; or (12) commercial airlines, railroads, ship lines, and

cargo carriers; or (13) any sector mutual fund or sector exchange-traded fund that concentrates its investments in one of the aforementioned industries, businesses, and sectors, in a single country other than the United States, or in bonds of a single state within the United States.

SECTION 5 – PUBLIC POSTING

I have been advised that this ethics agreement and the Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance will be posted publicly, consistent with the public information law at 5 U.S.C. § 552, on the website of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics with ethics agreements of other presidential nominees who file public financial disclosure reports.

Sincerely,

**SEAN G.
KAUFMAN -S**

Digitally signed by
SEAN G. KAUFMAN -S
Date: 2026.04.28
15:45:04 -04'00'

Sean Kaufman