



October 13, 2026

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

Thank you for acting on our April 27, 2026, letter urging the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to investigate the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) for evidence of alleged grant abuses and ties to terrorism.¹ Your leadership in examining whether CAIR meets the standards for suspension and debarment under federal regulations represents a crucial step toward protecting taxpayers and the integrity of HHS programs.

However, new research suggests that HHS funding of terrorist-linked organizations was much more widespread than previously understood. A recent study found nearly \$80 million in HHS-originated grants to extremist groups, many with ties to foreign terrorists.² The overwhelming majority were approved during the Biden-Harris administration and included cash handouts to Afghan immigrants and \$14 million in grants to radical foreign groups.

Under your watch, HHS has delivered on President Trump's mandate to end waste, fraud, and abuse across the health care sector, exposing nearly \$100 billion in fraud while recovering close to \$33 billion through settlements and civil penalties. The previous administration's failure to exercise basic oversight, coupled with its aggressive pursuit of DEI policies, has forced HHS to confront national security risks and public safety threats far beyond its core mission of providing affordable healthcare to all Americans.

During Biden-Harris administration, HHS allocated over \$50 million to CAIR and other Islamic organizations with suspected ties to radical groups to assist mostly Afghan immigrants with legal and social services, job placement, and medical care. Asking domestic extremist groups like CAIR to assist in the resettlement of Afghan parolees, many who hail from volatile regions and are highly vulnerable to radicalization, represents a security threat that policymakers and law enforcement are only beginning to understand.

Systemic failures in oversight and vetting of grant recipients, particularly at the sub-award level, resulted in grants to terrorist-aligned groups across a variety of HHS funding programs. The following grant recipients stand out as particularly egregious examples:

¹ https://roy.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/roy-evo.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/cair-debarment_hhs-letter.pdf

² <https://www.meforum.org/mef-reports/health-and-human-services-hidden-handouts>.

- CAIR was founded following a secretive meeting of Hamas operatives in 1993 and was identified as an unindicted co-conspirator in a trial that ended in convictions for five Hamas financiers. It was the single greatest terror-linked recipient of HHS funding, with nearly \$42 million in Afghan resettlement grants.
- Dar Al-Hijrah is a Northern Virginia mosque where Al Qaeda leader Anwar al-Awlaki preached, Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hassan, and two 9/11 hijackers received social and logistical support.
- The Muslim American Society (MAS) in Sacramento is part of a nationwide organization that federal prosecutors called “the overt arm of the Muslim Brotherhood in America.” The United Arab Emirates designated MAS as a terrorist group in 2014.
- ICNA Relief, the domestic charitable wing of the Islamic Circle of North America, belongs to South Asia’s Jamaat-e-Islami, a violent Islamist movement responsible for the genocide of secular intellectuals in Bangladesh’s 1971 war for independence. The U.S.-designated terrorist group Hizbul Mujahideen serves as the militant wing of Jamaat-e-Islami in Pakistan and Kashmir.
- Leaders Advancing and Helping Communities (LAHC) is a prominent Lebanese Shi’a community organization based in Dearborn, Michigan, whose leaders and associates sympathize with Hezbollah. LAHC delegations have met with Lebanese military and intelligence officials tied to the Iran-backed terrorist group and its allied Amal Movement.

For a federal agency established to enhance the health and well-being of Americans, HHS annually funds hundreds of foreign assistance projects, spending over \$7.5 billion on overseas programs during the Biden-Harris administration.³ At least \$14 million in department funds have been allocated to foreign extremist groups in conflict with U.S. foreign policy goals. For instance, the Aligarh Muslim University in India benefitted from HHS awards, even though multiple ISIS terrorist cells were discovered at the school in recent years. Likewise, HHS funded research from the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, a Ramallah firm whose opinion polls were allegedly manipulated by Hamas.

Many Biden-era grants do lasting harm to the communities they were assigned to help. Dar Al-Hijrah received \$340,000 in HHS sub-grants to promote coronavirus vaccine awareness, despite previously hosting a webinar series that taught how the pandemic was divine judgement aimed at the United States and Israel. MAS, whose former secretary general advocated for Female Genital Mutilation, received a grant to promote reproductive health among Afghan and Arab women. Cheikh Anta Diop University in Senegal was paid to conduct a research study on gay Muslim men living with HIV. At the same school, vigilante student mobs were known to hunt down and assault suspected homosexual classmates.

The broader lesson is that the federal government often had access to information that should have triggered additional scrutiny before these awards were made. We therefore urge you to take the following steps to ensure a future administration does not repeat these destructive policies:

- 1) Immediately suspend any awards from the Middle East Forum’s report⁴ that are assessed to have an active performance period.

³ <https://foreignassistance.gov/>.

⁴ *Ibid.* https://roy.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/roy-evo.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/cair-debarment_hhs-letter.pdf.

- 2) Conduct department-wide suspension and debarment reviews of organizations where the evidence warrants action.
- 3) Require terrorism and extremism screening for sensitive programs, particularly awards involving foreign assistance, refugee resettlement, cash reimbursements, and programs serving populations from regions vulnerable to terrorist recruitment.
- 4) Apply the same vetting to sub-recipients as prime recipients. Seventy percent of the identified funding passed through intermediary organizations.

HHS can no longer limit awardee screening to financial capacity and past performance. Grant managers should rigorously screen for harmful ideological practices and affiliations, steps that will prevent another reckless government spending spree that advances extremist groups and causes.

Your decision to investigate CAIR demonstrates that HHS can act when credible evidence is brought forward. We respectfully urge you to build on that action by examining the broader network of radical grant recipients, integrating responsible safeguards with HHS's department-wide efforts to end waste, and abuse of taxpayer-funded programs well beyond the current administration's term.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

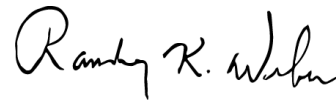
Respectfully,



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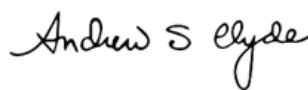
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