



441 G St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

October 16, 2020

The Honorable Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
United States Senate

Dear Senator Peters:

Thank you for your letter, jointly signed by Ranking Member Patty Murray, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and Senator Elizabeth Warren requesting that the Government Accountability Office review whether the CDC and FDA's scientific integrity and communications policies have been violated and whether those policies are being implemented as intended to assure scientific integrity throughout the agency.

GAO accepts your request as work that is within the scope of its authority. Consistent with GAO Congressional Protocols, given broad congressional interest in these issues, and as agreed by your staff, we will allow co-requesters of this work and we will be including the appropriate committees named in Section 19010 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136 as addressees.

Your request has been assigned to Ms. A. Nicole Clowers, Managing Director, Health Care. At the current time we anticipate that staff with the required skills will be available to initiate an engagement in about three months. Closer to the time GAO can start this engagement, Ms. Clowers or a member of her team will contact Yelena Tsilker to confirm that this request continues to be your priority for us. As applicable, we will also be in contact with the cognizant Inspector General's office to ensure that we are not duplicating efforts. If an issue arises during this coordination, we will consult with you regarding its resolution.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Clowers at 202-512-4010 or clowersa@gao.gov or Ms. Melissa A. Wolf, Assistant Director, Congressional Relations, on my staff at 202-512-4153 or wolfma@gao.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Orice Williams Brown
Managing Director
Congressional Relations

cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Yelena Tsilker