

STAFF ANALYSIS

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S PATTERN OF POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN THE NATION'S CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE



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The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis examined the Trump Administration's failed public health response to the coronavirus crisis, which has led to the deaths of more than 207,000 Americans. The analysis demonstrates that over the last eight months, the Administration engaged in a persistent pattern of political interference—repeatedly overruling and sidelining top scientists and undermining Americans' health to advance the President's partisan agenda.

The Administration's interference has occurred both in public view and in private, led by President Trump, Vice President Pence, White House officials, and political appointees at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other agencies. The apparent goal of this unprecedented, coordinated attack on our nation's public health agencies during the pandemic was, in the President's words, to "play it down."

The Select Subcommittee documented at least 47 separate incidents of political interference in the Administration's coronavirus response spanning from February through September 2020. These incidents have degraded every major facet of the Administration's public health response, including efforts to provide Americans access to testing and personal protective equipment (PPE), develop treatments and vaccines, and provide scientifically sound advice to the public on masks, social distancing, and other steps to stay safe.

As Election Day approaches, documented examples of political interference have increased, with at least 17 instances in August and September alone.

For example, political appointees have:

- Pressured health experts to adopt the Administration's talking points, even when they conflict with the science;
- Criticized, sidelined, and fired experts who insisted on sharing accurate scientific information with the public;
- Altered, delayed, and suppressed guidance and scientific reports on testing, protecting children, reopening schools, voting safely, and other topics;
- Authorized questionable virus treatments over the objections of scientists;
- Resisted efforts to ensure the safe development of a vaccine; and
- Diverted \$265 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for an ad campaign to "defeat despair and inspire hope" weeks before Election Day.

The Select Subcommittee's analysis is based on public reporting and the Subcommittee's investigations. It includes instances where the Administration actively interfered in the nation's public health response through executive action or public or private pressure. It does not capture each instance in which President Trump or his appointees downplayed the danger of the virus to the public, made false and misleading statements about the science, and misstated key facts about the Administration's response.

	Date	Political Interference
1.	February 20,	The Administration Ignores CDC Advice to Separate Infected Cruise
	2020	Ship Passengers. The <i>Washington Post</i> reports that following a
		coronavirus outbreak on the Diamond Princess cruise ship outside of
		Japan, a top Trump Administration official overruled CDC's
		recommendation to separate infected and non-infected passengers onto
		different flights. ¹
2.	February 25,	President Trump Threatens to Fire a CDC Official for Sharing
	2020	Accurate Information. Dr. Nancy Messonnier, Director of CDC's
		National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, warned that
		the American public should "prepare with the expectation that this could
		be bad." The Wall Street Journal reports the comments prompted
		President Trump to call HHS Secretary Alex Azar threatening to fire
		Dr. Messonnier. Later that day, Secretary Azar tried to walk back
		Dr. Messonnier's statements. ¹¹¹
3.	March – April	The White House Blocks a National Testing Plan Because "Blue
	2020	States" Appear Most Impacted. Vanity Fair reports that White House
		senior advisor Jared Kushner convened a working group at the White
		House in March and April that designed a national testing plan, but the
		Administration ultimately dropped the plan because political aides felt it
		was more advantageous to blame Democratic governors.iv
4.	March 5, 2020	The Administration Delays a CDC Travel Alert. CNN reports that
		CDC planned to post a global travel alert on March 5 that would have
		urged precautions for international travel anywhere in the world, but the
	1.7.2020	Trump Administration delayed the alert by nearly a week.
5.	March 7, 2020	The Administration Overrules CDC Officials on a Travel Advisory
		for the Elderly. The Associated Press reports that the White House
		overruled CDC officials who sought to recommend that the elderly and
		others more susceptible to the virus should avoid flying on commercial
		flights during the pandemic. While the Administration later suggested
		that vulnerable populations should consider not traveling, it resisted the
6	March O	stricter guidance proposed by CDC. vi
6.	March 9 –	The White House "Muzzled" CDC Briefings. Following a March 9
	May 29, 2020	briefing in which Dr. Messonnier accurately warned that coronavirus
		would rapidly spread in the United States, CDC stopped providing public
		briefings about the pandemic for more than two months. <i>CNN</i> reports that "CDC officials said they've been 'myzzled' and that their agency's efforts
		"CDC officials said they've been 'muzzled' and that their agency's efforts to mount a coordinated response to the Covid-19 pandemic were
		hamstrung by a White House whose decisions are driven by politics rather
		than science." viii
		man science.

	Date	Political Interference
7.	March 19 – 21,	The White House Refuses to Coordinate Procurement and
	2020	Distribution of PPE to Address Shortages. As HHS's Strategic
		National Stockpile was depleted of PPE in March, viii calls arose for the
		federal government to take a central role in procuring and distributing
		supplies. President Trump refused, saying on March 19 that the federal
		government is "not a shipping clerk." <i>Vanity Fair</i> reports that, on
		March 21, Mr. Kushner rebuffed offers from private sector groups to help
		address supply problems, stating: "The federal government is not going
		to lead this response. It's up to the states to figure out what they want to
		do." Despite widespread concerns that states were bidding against each
		other for PPE and calls to invoke the Defense Production Act, Mr. Kushner said: "Free markets will solve this. That is not the role of
		government."x
8.	April 2020	The White House Quashes Plan to Have the Postal Service Send
0.	71pm 2020	Masks to Every U.S. Household. The White House blocked plans to
		send 650 million reusable masks to all U.S. households through the Postal
		Service in April, instead deciding to privately send masks to the private
		sector, schools, and other community organizations. An Administration
		official told the Washington Post this change was due to the "concern
		from some in the White House Domestic Policy Council and the Office of
		the Vice President that households receiving masks might create concern
	A '1 N	or panic."xi
9.	April – May	President Trump Contradicted Experts and Pushed to Reopen the
	2020	Economy Without a Plan to Stay Safe. President Trump repeatedly pushed to reopen and lift shutdown orders—despite warnings from White
		House Coronavirus Task Force members Dr. Anthony Fauci and
		Dr. Deborah Birx that containment measures were still needed in hot
		spots. The <i>New York Times</i> reports that most states that started to reopen
		in early May did not meet the Task Force's recommended criteria for
		reopening. xii In pushing to reopen, President Trump downplayed the risk
		from the virus, saying "People die from the flu. But we've never closed
		down the country for the flu."xiii Bob Woodward later revealed that
		President Trump acknowledged privately on February 7 that the
		coronavirus was "more deadly than even your strenuous flus" and that
10	A	"You just breathe the air and that's how it's passed."xiv
10.	April 14, 2020	The Administration Halts Funding to the World Health Organization (WHO). <i>Politico</i> reports that the Administration halted funding to WHO,
		following President Trump's criticism of the organization. Defunding
		WHO is counter to the pandemic preparedness plan the Trump
		Administration drafted in 2017, which advocated for "expanded
		international coordination on pandemic preparedness and response" and
		called for "continued support" for WHO.xv

	Date	Political Interference
11.	April 17 – 20,	President Trump Removes an HHS Official for Seeking Rigorous
	2020	Vetting of a Potentially Dangerous Drug, Hydroxychloroquine. The
		New York Times reports that Dr. Rick Bright was ousted as Director of the
		Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)
		for refusing to push hydroxychloroquine. Dr. Bright stated that the
1.0		Administration put "politics and cronyism ahead of science."xvi
12.	April 21 – 22,	CDC Weakens Safety Protocols for Meat Processing Plants Following
	2020	Intervention by the USDA Secretary. MSNBC reports that following a
		meeting with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Purdue, CDC Director Robert Redfield's office directed CDC staff to revise the language on its own
		coronavirus safety protocols for a South Dakota Smithfield meat
		processing plant to make the public health guidance appear as optional
		suggestions. xvii
13.	Early May	Administration Officials Shelve CDC Guidance on Safe Reopening.
	2020	The Associated Press reports that CDC intended to release its Guidance
		for Implementing the Opening Up America Again Framework on May 1,
		but the White House blocked them, calling the document "overly
		prescriptive." CDC scientists were told the guidance "would never see
		the light of day" amid concerns from political appointees about damage to
		the economy. xviii
14.	May 2020	Secretary Azar and Other HHS Officials Seek to Influence CDC
		Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWR). Politico reports
		that Secretary Azar and other HHS political appointees believed an
		accurate CDC report about the spread of the coronavirus was "implying
		that the Trump administration moved too slowly to respond to the outbreak." Around this time, HHS Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
		Michael Caputo and his advisor, Dr. Paul Alexander, began pushing to
		influence CDC's MMWRs.xix
15.	May 1, 2020	The Administration Cancels National Institutes of Health (NIH)
		Grant for Coronavirus Research Due to Conspiracy Theory. ABC
		News reports this grant existed for more than a decade and stems from the
		researchers' partnership with Wuhan Institute of Virology.xx President
		Trump has claimed—without any evidence—that the coronavirus was
		created and released by this biomedical lab, despite statements to the
4.5		contrary made by both Dr. Fauci and WHO.xxi
16.	May 6, 2020	The White House Council of Economic Advisers Publicize a
		Misleading Projection of Deaths. The New York Times reports the
		White House Council of Economic Advisers publicized a projections chart that suggested that Americans will stop dying of the coronavirus by
		the middle of May. Outside experts said the "dotted line in the chart
		could only mislead people into believing it was a forecast for a rapid
		decline in deaths."xxii
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	Date	Political Interference
17.	May 16, 2020	HHS Hires Ex-Pharma Executives with Financial Interests in Vaccine
		Makers to Oversee Vaccine Development Process. Politico reports that
		by hiring Dr. Moncef Slaoui as an independent contractor, HHS let him
		maintain millions of dollars of pharmaceutical company securities. The
		Select Subcommittee's investigation shows that Dr. Slaoui and other
		Operation Warp Speed advisers maintained stock holdings that pose
		serious, unresolved conflicts of interest that could undermine the integrity
		of the Administration's vaccine development and review process. xxiii
18.	May 19, 2020	The Administration Ignores Warnings About Mass Outbreaks at ICE
		Detention Centers. CNN reports that the Administration was warned in
		March about the "imminent risk to the health and safety of immigrant
		detainees."xxiv A study conducted in late-April found that between 72%
		and 100% of detainees will be infected. However, the Administration
		refused to take recommended measures to protect the health of
19.	May 22, 2020	detainees. xxv The White House Alters Guidance to Faith Communities. The
19.	May 23, 2020	Washington Post reports that the White House removed CDC
		recommendations to limit practices that spread the virus, such as choir
		singing. Despite the evidence underlying CDC's initial recommendations,
		the White House and some members of the Task Force were reportedly
		"resistant to establishing limits on religious institutions" and "did not
		want to alienate the evangelical community." xxvi
20.	June 15, 2020	
	,	About Outbreak. The <i>New York Times</i> reports Vice President Pence
		encouraged governors to adopt the Administration's inaccurate claim that
		a recent increase in cases was due to increased testing. The Vice
		President went on to "encourage people with the news that we're safely
21.	June 22, 2020	
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22	June 22 2020	The Administration Ends Funding for 13 Testing Sites After
<i></i> .	Julic 22, 2020	
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
21.	June 15, 2020 June 22, 2020 June 22, 2020	The Administration Tells Governors to Repeat Misleading Claims About Outbreak. The New York Times reports Vice President Pence encouraged governors to adopt the Administration's inaccurate claim tha a recent increase in cases was due to increased testing. The Vice

	Date	Political Interference
23.	June 23, 2020	The White House Issues Secret Public Health Recommendations to
	- Present	States. The Select Subcommittee's investigation shows that the Task
		Force sent private reports to state and local governments warning about
		surges in new coronavirus infections and making recommendations to
		improve states' responses to the pandemic. The White House has refused
		to publicly support many of these private recommendations, including
		requiring face masks, closing bars and gyms, and strictly limiting
2.4	1 20 2020	gatherings. xxx
24.	June 28, 2020	The Administration Pressures CDC to Downplay Risks to Pregnant
		Women. The <i>Washington Post</i> reports that Dr. Alexander wrote an email
		to Director Redfield accusing CDC of "undermining the President" by
		putting out an accurate report warning about the potential risks to pregnant women from the coronavirus. The email noted that the guidance
		"reads in a way to frighten women as if the President and his
		administration can't fix this and it is getting worse."xxxi
25.	June 30, 2020	Political Appointees Target Top CDC Scientist Following an
23.	June 30, 2020	Interview. The New York Times reports that Dr. Alexander emailed
		Mr. Caputo a scathing critique of scientifically accurate statements about
		the coronavirus made by CDC Principal Deputy Director Anne Schuchat
		during an interview. Dr. Alexander accused Dr. Schuchat of trying to
		"embarrass the President here" and claimed that "It is very false her
		statement that it causes death in children."xxxii
26.	Early July	The Administration Attacks Dr. Fauci for Sharing Contrary Views on
	2020	Reopening. CNN reports that the White House made a concerted effort to
		discredit Dr. Fauci after he expressed concerns over reopening the country
27	1.1.2020	
2/.	July 2020	1 0
27.	July 2020	amid a national surge in coronavirus cases. "One senior administration official told <i>CNN</i> that some officials within the White House do not trust Fauci. According to the source, those officials think Fauci doesn't have the best interest of the President." After President Trump claimed Dr. Fauci "made a lot of mistakes," Assistant to the President Peter Navarro, who has no public health expertise, published an op-ed in <i>USA Today</i> stating that Dr. Fauci "has been wrong about everything I have interacted with him on." has been wrong about everything I have interacted with him on." President Trump Overrules CDC on School Reopening Guidance. President Trump pushed for schools to fully reopen, even though CDC guidance warned that "Full sized, in-person classes" presented the "Highest Risk" of transmitting coronavirus to students, teachers, and community members. CDC then issued revised guidelines that were "substantially edited by White House officials" and included misleading language downplaying the risks, over the objection of CDC scientists. Senior White House staff, including Mark Meadows, Mr. Kushner, Larry Kudlow, and Stephen Miller, were involved in the review process.

Date Political Interference	
28. July – August President Trump Pressures FDA to Review O	leandrin as a Potential
2020 Coronavirus Treatment. Axios reports that Pre	sident Trump pressured
FDA to review the unproven botanical extract as	a potential coronavirus
cure, after a meeting with Phoenix Biotechnology	y Vice Chairman Andrew
Whitney arranged by My Pillow founder and CE	O Mike Lindrell, a
supporter of President Trump's campaign.xxxviii	
29. July – August The Administration Installs Partisans in Nonp	
News reports that President Trump installed a num	
operatives—some lacking scientific backgrounds	
FDA that are typically filled by nonpolitical civil	
30. July 10, 2020 The Administration Redirects Hospitalization	
The New York Times reports that the Administrat	
hospitals across the country to stop sending data	
hospitalizations to the CDC platform that hospital	
for over a decade, and instead to report the data of	
new portal maintained by a private company.xl D	
the Select Subcommittee that he "wasn't involved	
transfer the data away from CDC and that "the Se	ecretary's office made
the decision."xli	_
31. August – Administration Officials Delay Accurate Artic	
September Hydroxychloroquine in CDC's MMWR. Polit	
team tried to halt the release of a CDC report that	-
benefits of [hydroxychloroquine] do not outweig	
was held for about a month after Mr. Caputo's te	
about its authors' political leanings, but it was fir	nally released on
September 4. Xlii	L - A J
32. August – The Administration Pressures Dr. Fauci to Ec	
September 2020 Talking Points on Children and the Coronavir Dr. Alexander repeatedly attempted to pressure I	-
officials to adopt the Administration's talking po	
Dr. Alexander made clear that he objected to Dr.	
interview responses, stating: "I continue to have	
getting tested and repeatedly and even university	
mannerand I disagree with Dr. Fauci on this.	*
September 8, Dr. Alexander asked, "Can you ens	•
masks are for the teachers in schools. Not for ch	
33. August 2, 2020 The White House Exerts Political Pressure to	
Election Day. The New York Times reports that	
pressured Secretary Azar to accelerate the vaccin	——————————————————————————————————————
and that the White House insisted on the product	* *
October 2020, prior to Election Day. xliv	<i>,</i>

	Date	Political Interference
34.	August 8, 2020	An HHS Political Appointee Demands CDC Alter or Retract
	_	Scientific Articles on Children. Politico reports that Dr. Alexander
		demanded that CDC Director Redfield change two published reports that
		Dr. Alexander claimed inflated coronavirus risks to children and
		undermined President Trump's push to reopen schools. Dr. Alexander
		called on CDC to insert new language in a report or "pull it down and stop
		all reports immediately." He also wrote: "CDC tried to report as if once
		kids get together, there will be spread and this will impact school re-
		opening Very misleading by CDC and shame on them. Their aim is
		clear This is designed to hurt this President for their reasons which I
		am not interested in."xlv
35.	August 8, 2020	An HHS Political Appointee Demands Changes to MMWR
		Publication Process to Allow for Political Interference. Politico
		reports that Dr. Alexander called on CDC Director Redfield to put an
		"immediate stop" to all new MMWR reports, so that the agency could
		change its publication process to allow for Dr. Alexander to personally
		review the report before publication. Dr. Alexander stated, "The reports
		must be read by someone outside of CDC like myself, and we cannot
		allow the reporting to go on as it has been, for it is outrageous. Its lunacy.
		Nothing to go out unless I read and agree with the findings how they
		CDC, wrote it and I tweak it to ensure it is fair and balanced and
		'complete.'"xlvi
36.	August 23,	FDA Grants an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Plasma
	2020	Over the Objections of Top Scientists, While Citing Misleading
		Evidence. The New York Times and Washington Post report that the
		EUA for convalescent plasma occurred over the objections of Dr. Fauci
		and NIH Director Francis Collins, who believed insufficient data was
		available to determine if convalescent plasma provided a benefit. xlvii
		FDA's EUA qualified the preliminary findings regarding convalescent
		plasma and called for clinical trials.xlviii FDA rushed the EUA over
		objections to appease President Trump, who had expressed frustration that
		FDA was not moving quickly enough to develop coronavirus treatments.
		FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn was later forced to apologize, and the
		FDA's chief spokesperson was removed after it became clear that
		Dr. Hahn, along with President Trump and Secretary Azar, cited grossly
		inaccurate statistics on the effectiveness of plasma therapy at a press
27	A + 2.4	conference. xlix
37.	August 24,	The Administration Alters CDC Testing Guidelines. CDC abruptly
	2020	changed its testing guidelines to assert, contrary to the scientific
		consensus, that most asymptomatic individuals exposed to a person with
		the virus do not need to be tested. <i>CNN</i> asked a senior CDC official
		whether this change was made at the direction of the White House or
		HHS, and the official stated, "It's coming from the top down." CDC's
		original guidance was later restored after the Select Subcommittee and
		others objected.

	Date	Political Interference
38.	August 24,	President Trump Accuses the "Deep State" FDA of Slowing Vaccine
	2020	Trials Until After Election. After repeatedly suggesting that a
		coronavirus vaccine may be released before Election Day, President
		Trump pressured FDA Commissioner Hahn to deliver, tweeting: "The
		deep state, or whoever, over at the FDA is making it very difficult for
		drug companies to get people in order to test the vaccines and
		therapeutics. Obviously, they are hoping to delay the answer until after
		November 3rd. Must focus on speed, and saving lives! @SteveFDA"li
39.	August 28,	HHS Cancels Contract of Consultant Who Advised FDA to Correct
	2020	Misleading Statements. Politico reports that HHS canceled the contract
		of consultant Wayne Pines after he advised FDA Commissioner Hahn to
		correct misleading statements made regarding the effectiveness of plasma
		therapy. HHS officials were reportedly angered by Dr. Hahn's apology
		and began the process of severing Mr. Pines' contract after learning that
		he aided the decision, with one official stating that Mr. Pines' removal
		was "not routine." lii
40.	August 31,	The Administration Redirects \$265 million from CDC and FDA
	2020	Budgets for a "Boondoggle" PR Campaign to "Defeat Despair"
		Before Election. <i>Politico</i> reports the ad campaign—which Mr. Caputo
		said was directly ordered by President Trump—sought to release an
		ad blitz before Election Day featuring senior Administration officials and
		celebrities and highlighting the Administration's pandemic response.
		The New York Times reports that CDC was not been consulted on the
		substance of the campaign. liv HHS directed a subcontract to a former
		business partner of Mr. Caputo. An HHS official called the effort a
4.1	T	"boondoggle." IV
41.	Late August	HHS Overrides FDA and Increases the Risk of Inaccurate
	2020	Coronavirus Tests Flooding the Market. Politico reports that Secretary
		Azar overruled objections from FDA Commissioner Hahn to revoke the
		FDA's ability to check the quality of tests developed by labs for their own
		use. The decision removed safeguards designed to prevent inaccurate
		tests from flooding the market during a public health crisis. A former
		HHS official told <i>Politico</i> that, "I've never seen such a complete political
42.	Santamban 2	overruling of the agency." Vaccine
4 ∠.	September 2, 2020	President Trump Undermines FDA Independence on Vaccine Approval FDA appropried guidelines to be followed before authorizing
	2020	Approval. FDA announced guidelines to be followed before authorizing a vaccine-related EUA, including a minimum two-month period after a
		clinical trial and five cases of severe coronavirus in the placebo group.
		President Trump rejected the FDA's attempt to implement a rigorous
		vaccine approval process, asserting without evidence that the plan
		"sounds like a political move" and that it "has to be approved by the
		White House. We may or may not approve it." Vivii
		white House. We may of may not approve it.

	Date	Political Interference
43.	September 6,	The White House Weakens Task Force Public Health
	2020	Recommendations. After months of recommending that states with
		active outbreaks implement mask mandates, close bars and gyms, and
		strictly limit gatherings, an analysis by the Select Subcommittee shows
		the Task Force weakened its recommendations in states where the virus is
4.4	2 1 1 7	still spreading rapidly. lviii
44.	September 15,	Secretary Azar Restricts the Authority of FDA and Other Health
	2020	Agencies. The New York Times reports that Secretary Azar signed a
		memorandum prohibiting FDA and other health agencies from signing
		any new rules regarding medicines, medical devices, and other products,
		writing that the power to do so "is reserved to the Secretary." It is unclear
		what Secretary Azar intends to do with this power, but experts have raised
4.5	0 1 16	alarm that the change could impact vaccines and therapeutics. lix
45.	September 16,	President Trump Publicly Rebukes Dr. Redfield on Mask and
	2020	Vaccine Effectiveness. The New York Times reports that President
		Trump publicly rebuked Dr. Redfield after he provided scientifically
		accurate testimony that a vaccine would not be widely available until Summer 2021 or later and that face masks are "more guaranteed" to
		protect against the coronavirus than a vaccine. President Trump stated
		that Dr. Redfield's comments contained "incorrect information."
		Subsequently, Dr. Redfield and CDC issued statements walking back
		Dr. Redfield's testimony to more closely align with the President's
		views. lx
46.	September 21,	The Administration Removed a Report on Airborne Transmission
	2020	from the CDC Website. On Friday, September 18, new guidance
		appeared on CDC's website concluding that the coronavirus is transmitted
		through small particles in the air. By Monday, September 21, this
		guidance was removed. The sudden appearance and disappearance of
		scientific information has raised concerns that officials may have found
		the conclusions politically inconvenient. lxi
47.	September 29,	The Vice President Overrules the CDC Director on Extending Cruise
	2020	Ship Ban. Axios reports that CDC Director Redfield was overruled by
		Vice President Pence when he pushed to extend a no-sail order on
		passenger cruises until February 2021: "Public health officials have
		privately complained that the thwarting of Redfield on the cruise ship ban
		is politically motivated because the industry is a major economic presence
		in Florida—a key battleground state where the polls are statistically
		tied." lxii

ENDNOTES

ⁱ Coronavirus-Infected Americans Flown Home Against CDC's Advice, Washington Post (Feb. 20, 2020) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/health/coronavirus-diamond-princess-cruise-americans/2020/02/20/b6f54cae-5279-11ea-b119-4faabac6674f_story.html).

- ii Health Officials Warn Americans to Plan for the Spread of Coronavirus in U.S., National Public Radio (Feb. 25, 2020) (online at www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/02/25/809318447/health-officials-warn-americans-to-start-planning-for-spread-of-coronavirus-in-u).
- iii *Health Chief's Early Missteps Set Back Coronavirus Response*, Wall Street Journal (Apr. 22, 2020) (online at www.wsj.com/articles/health-chiefs-early-missteps-set-back-coronavirus-response-11587570514).
- iv How Jared Kushner's Secret Testing Plan "Went Poof into Thin Air," Vanity Fair (July 30, 2020) (online at www.vanityfair.com/news/2020/07/how-jared-kushners-secret-testing-plan-went-poof-into-thin-air).
- ^v 'We've Been Muzzled': CDC Sources Say White House Putting Politics Ahead of Science, CNN (May 20, 2020) (online at www.cnn.com/2020/05/20/politics/coronavirus-travel-alert-cdc-white-house-tensions-invs/index.html).
- vi Official: White House Didn't Want to Tell Seniors Not to Fly, Associated Press (Mar. 7, 2020) (online at apnews.com/article/921ad7f1f08d7634bf681ba785faf269).
- vii CDC to Resume Regular Coronavirus Briefings After Being Sidelined by White House, CNN (May 30, 2020) (online at www.cnn.com/2020/05/30/politics/cdc-coronavirus-briefings-resume/index.html).
- viii Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Press Release: New Document Shows Inadequate Distribution of Personal Protective Equipment and Critical Medical Supplies to States* (Apr. 8, 2020) (online at oversight.house.gov/news/press-releases/new-document-shows-inadequate-distribution-of-personal-protective-equipment-and).
- ix 'We're Not a Shipping Clerk': Trump Tells Governors to Step up Efforts to Get Medical Supplies, Politico (Mar. 19, 2020) (online at www.politico.com/news/2020/03/19/trump-governors-coronavirus-medical-supplies-137658).
- x "That's Their Problem": How Jared Kushner Let the Markets Decide America's COVID-19 Fate, Vanity Fair (Sept. 17, 2020) (online at www.vanityfair.com/news/2020/09/jared-kushner-let-the-markets-decide-covid-19-fate).
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