



August 26, 2022

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

I write regarding the safety and security of HHS employees — which I know is a matter of utmost importance to HHS and NTEU. You have repeatedly demonstrated your support for the dedication and professionalism of the HHS workforce in your public statements and your willingness to listen to NTEU’s concerns. I am sure you are aware of the recent dangerous and false rhetoric by some politicians and others. NTEU and our members are increasingly worried about their safety, and we ask that you immediately take steps to enhance security at HHS facilities and take measures to minimize placing employees in settings where they are at risk. HHS workers are often targeted due to the nature of their work, which requires close interaction with the public. Too many times in the past, we have seen anti-government, anti-worker statements fuel violent attacks on innocent federal employees. I was sickened to read a report of one political candidate who condoned shooting federal employees “on sight.” These public servants are doing the job that Congress asked of them, and they deserve to be protected.

I request that HHS undertake a comprehensive review of safety and security measures at all HHS facilities. The review should consider whether each facility has, among other things: the proper risk assessment security level designation; sufficient entry control systems, including guards or other armed presence and magnetometers; sufficient perimeter security; exterior lighting; proper designation of restricted areas; and operable security equipment.

I also ask that, for the time being, HHS minimize the amount of field work by HHS employees while these harmful statements circulate on news outlets and on social media and continue to incite violence against federal employees. Additionally, HHS-OIG and the Federal Protective Service should step up their efforts to protect HHS employees.

I appreciate your urgent attention to this matter.

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Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the dedicated employees of HHS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony M. Reardon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Anthony M. Reardon  
National President

cc: Doreen Greenwald, NTEU  
Ken Moffett, NTEU  
Frank Barczykowski, NTEU  
Rocio Topete, NTEU  
Folasade Omogun, NTEU