

United States Senate

July 13, 2026

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Acting Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Acting Attorney General Blanche:

I write to request that you appoint a Special Counsel to investigate Dr. Anthony Fauci's conduct. Specifically, the investigation should examine Dr. Fauci's role related to the origins of COVID-19, federal funding for risky coronavirus research, and the obstruction of congressional oversight. In addition, the investigation should formally review the validity and scope of former President Biden's January 2025 purported pardon of Dr. Fauci, including whether it was personally authorized and lawfully executed.

As a physician and a member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP), I have a stake in the oversight of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which Dr. Fauci led for decades. Previously, my oversight work in this realm has focused on Dr. Fauci's testimony regarding gain-of-function research, NIH's funding relationship with EcoHealth Alliance and the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and Dr. Fauci's financial disclosures, among other issues.

As you are likely aware, on June 18, 2026, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) declassified documents concerning Dr. Fauci, U.S.-funded research, and the government's handling of the origins of COVID-19. According to ODNI, the materials raise serious questions about Dr. Fauci's role in directing or influencing the government's understanding of COVID-19's origins and about whether dissenting voices inside the federal government were sidelined or retaliated against. The concerns raised by the ODNI's June 18 document release cross institutional boundaries. The relevant facts may involve NIH, NIAID, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), federal grantmaking officials, Intelligence Community personnel, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) officers, and former senior officials whose conduct was central to the federal COVID-19 response.

Accordingly, this matter requires an independent investigation by a Special Counsel appointed by the Department of Justice. An investigation by a Special Counsel could traverse these boundaries and avoid the appearance that the federal government is improperly reviewing its own pandemic-era misconduct.

In addition to investigating Dr. Fauci's aforementioned conduct, a Special Counsel should review whether former President Biden personally authorized the pardon that was signed by an autopen

and issued to Dr. Fauci, whether the use of an autopen was lawfully directed, and whether proper documentation for the authorization existed.

Finally, the Special Counsel should also examine the scope of the pardon, which was written with sweeping breadth. If the pardon is valid, we must understand what conduct it covers. If the pardon was not validly authorized, it should not allow Dr. Fauci to skirt accountability.

The pandemic imposed enormous costs on Kansas families, businesses, and communities, as well as on the entire country. The restoration of the public's trust demands an independent investigation of federal officials' conduct before, during, and even after the pandemic.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger W. Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator