



THE EQUAL PROTECTION PROJECT
A Project of the Legal Insurrection Foundation
18 MAPLE AVE. #280
BARRINGTON, RI 02806
www.EqualProtect.org

June 24, 2025

BY EMAIL

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Re: Request for Investigation of Discriminatory Practices Under HHS Grants

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

We write on behalf of the Equal Protection Project of the Legal Insurrection Foundation, a nonprofit organization committed to ensuring equal protection under the law and opposing all forms of unlawful discrimination. This letter concerns potentially discriminatory grantmaking practices at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”).

Earlier today, we filed the attached Complaint with the HHS Office for Civil Rights regarding the REACH Minority Fellowship, a joint program administered by the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP) and Yale School of Medicine.

As detailed in the Complaint, this program is funded through an HHS grant for a “Minority Fellowship Program.” While the grant terms do not restrict eligibility to minority applicants, AAAP and Yale impose such a requirement, thereby using federal funds for discriminatory criteria. It is reasonable to assume that the title of the grant program (“Minority Fellowship Program”) encouraged such discrimination even if by its terms the grant did not impose such an unlawful requirement

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A review of publicly available grant databases,¹ reveals over 700 HHS grants active within the past year that reference serving “minority” communities and improving minority outcomes. While such goals may be laudable, such aspirations cannot be permitted to turn into civil rights violations when implemented.

In light of the AAAP-Yale program, we respectfully urge HHS to conduct a comprehensive review of such grants to ensure that the goal of serving “minority” communities is conducted in compliance with the civil rights laws.

Respectfully submitted,

/William A. Jacobson/

William A. Jacobson, Esq.
President
Legal Insurrection Foundation
Contact@legalinsurrection.com

/Robert J. Fox/

Robert J. Fox
Attorney
Legal Insurrection Foundation
Robert.Fox@legalinsurrection.com

CC: (by email, w/attachment)

Paula M. Stannard, Esq.
Director, HHS Office for Civil Rights

Harmeet Dhillon, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division
United States Department of Justice

¹ <https://www.usaspending.gov/search?hash=daaefb55d138c0aec5e26f4c6d9960fe> (accessed June 20, 2025).