

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC**

March 4, 2026

Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Maryann M. D'Alessandro, PhD  
Director  
National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory  
626 Cochrans Mill Rd  
Building 141, Rm 105  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

**RE: Release of Completed NIOSH Study of Feasibility and Potential Benefits of Expanding the Use of Reusable Health Care Textiles**

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

We write to follow up on our prior request regarding the feasibility and potential benefits of expanding the use of reusable health care textiles (HCTs). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) October 19, 2023 response confirmed that National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is conducting a comprehensive study expected to conclude in August 2024.<sup>12</sup>

We also note that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) held a major workshop on March 4–5, 2024 examining reusable HCTs, sponsored by NIOSH's National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory.<sup>3</sup> The workshop explored safety, environmental impact, economic benefits, adoption barriers, and supply chain resiliency. Key findings included:

- Reusable HCTs reduce greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, and solid waste compared with disposables.<sup>3</sup>
- Reusable PPE improves supply-chain resilience during crises, as shown during COVID-19 shortages.<sup>3</sup>
- Evidence presented showed that reusable gowns provide equal or better liquid barrier performance across many laundering cycles compared with disposable alternatives.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> CDC Response to Congressional Letter, Oct. 19, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> CDC Response to Congressional Letter, p.3: NIOSH report expected Aug. 2024.

<sup>3</sup> NASEM Workshop on Reusable Health Care Textiles for PPE, March 2024.

- Workshop experts emphasized that widespread adoption requires investment in laundering capacity, standardized performance testing, and institutional education for health care workers. <sup>3</sup>
- NIOSH is commissioning a National Academies workshop report to guide policy on reusable HCT implementation. <sup>3</sup>

Given the relevance of both the NIOSH study and NASEM findings, we respectfully request:

1. Immediate release of the completed NIOSH study, if finalized.
2. A projected release timeline if not yet complete.
3. Briefings on the NASEM workshop findings as they relate to reusable HCT adoption.
4. Any interim data or preliminary summaries available for Congressional review.

Sincerely,



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Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



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Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



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Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress