

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 26, 2017

Daniel R. Levinson  
Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
330 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Inspector General Levinson,

We write to respectfully inquire regarding reports that Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tom Price chartered “private jets on five separate flights for official business, at a cost of tens of thousands of dollars more than commercial travel.”<sup>1</sup> This use of federal funds for private flights would represent a departure from former HHS Secretaries who made a practice of traveling by commercial flights in non-emergency situations. We understand that you have recently begun an investigation into this matter. To that end, we respectfully request a response to the following:

1. On how many occasions has Secretary Price or other HHS officials utilized chartered private flights for official business this year?
2. How much did any private chartered trips cost taxpayers?
3. What is HHS’ policy regarding chartering private planes for official business in non-emergency situations? Did the Secretary’s use of chartered private travel comply with HHS policy?
4. What justification, if any, did Secretary Price provide HHS to charter these flights?
5. For each separate private chartered flight, what attempts, if any, were made to find and book a commercial or other more cost-effective form of travel?
6. Does Secretary Price intend to reimburse taxpayers for these flights?

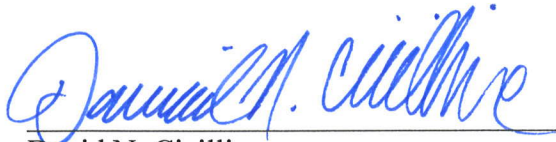
As representatives of our constituents, our duty is to ensure that their tax dollars are being utilized in the most efficient and responsible manner in order to continue to deliver the critical services entrusted to federal agencies. As part of Congress’ oversight role, it is our responsibility to ensure waste, fraud, and abuse of federal tax dollars is scrutinized and corrected when need be.

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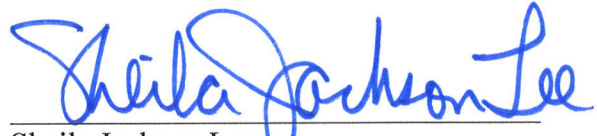
<sup>1</sup> <http://www.politico.com/story/2017/09/19/tom-price-chartered-planes-flights-242908>

We thank you for your role in providing accountability at HHS and look forward to your response. If our offices can be of service regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us.

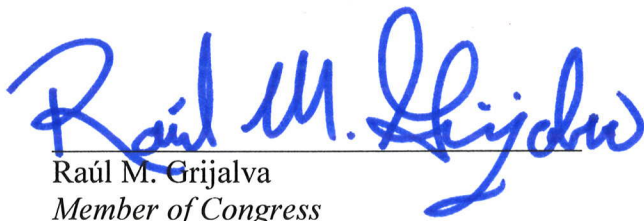
Sincerely,



David N. Cicilline  
*Member of Congress*




Sheila Jackson Lee  
*Member of Congress*



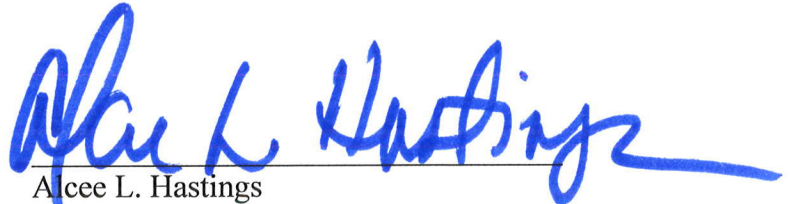
Raúl M. Grijalva  
*Member of Congress*



Jared Huffman  
*Member of Congress*



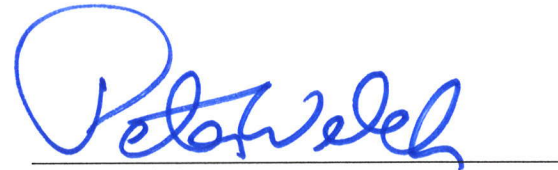
Grace Meng  
*Member of Congress*



Alcee L. Hastings  
*Member of Congress*



Diana DeGette  
*Member of Congress*



Peter Welch  
*Member of Congress*



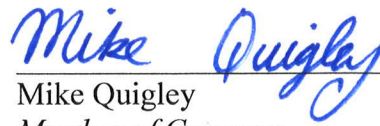
Pramila Jayapal  
*Member of Congress*



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
*Member of Congress*



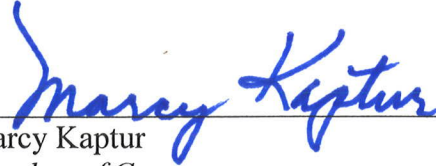
Val Demings  
*Member of Congress*



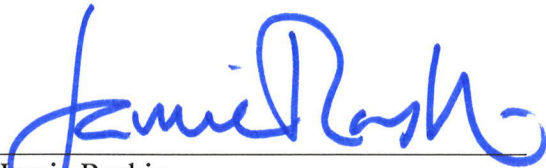
Mike Quigley  
*Member of Congress*



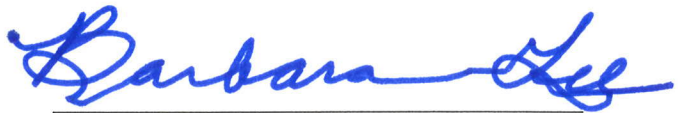
Steve Cohen  
*Member of Congress*



Marcy Kaptur  
*Member of Congress*



Jamie Raskin  
*Member of Congress*



Barbara Lee  
*Member of Congress*



Ted W. Lieu  
*Member of Congress*



Tim Walz  
*Member of Congress*



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
*Member of Congress*




Cheri Bustos  
*Member of Congress*



Mark Pocan  
*Member of Congress*



Tom O'Halleran  
*Member of Congress*

  
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

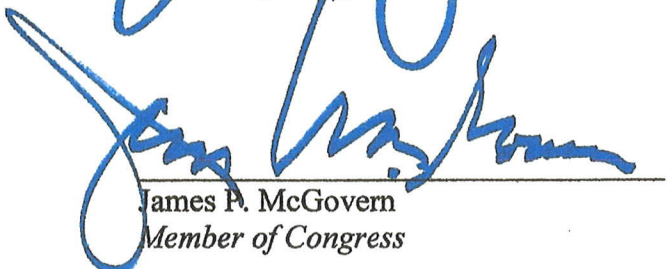
  
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

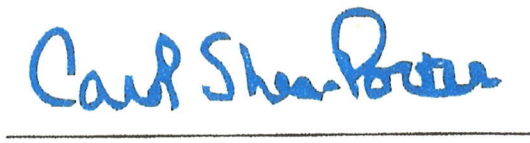
  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

  
Jacky Rosen  
Member of Congress

  
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

  
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

  
Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress

  
Alma Adams  
Member of Congress

  
Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress

  
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

  
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress