



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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Office of the Secretary  
Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20201

**Litigation No: 2023-cv-03680/American First Legal Foundation**  
**HHS Case No. 2022-01186 FOIA-OS/**

**August 30, 2024**

**Reed D. Rubinstein**  
**America First Legal Foundation**

***Sent Via Email: FOIA@aflegal.org***

Dear Reed Rubinstein:

This letter is the fifth interim response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Secretary FOIA Office on September 19, 2022. Specifically, you requested the following records:

**I. Custodians**

- a. Janet Woodcock
- b. Rick Bright
- c. Gary Disbrow
- d. Denise Hinton

**II. Requested Records**

- A. For all custodians, all records, including but not limited to email, texts, memoranda, and handwritten notes including the words "hydroxychloroquine" or "HCQ," or "early treatment," or "early (drug) treatment," or "remdesivir."
- B. For all custodians, all calendar items that contain the terms "hydroxychloroquine" or "HCQ," or "early treatment," or "early (drug) treatment," or "remdesivir."
- C. All communications, including but not limited to emails between Janet Woodcock and Rick Bright.

For this fifth response, the Department has reviewed 504 pages of records, potentially responsive to FOIA request 2022-01186-FOIA-OS. Of these 504 pages, we have determined that 504 pages should be sent for consultation to other executive branch agencies and returned to this Department for final disposition.

We will continue to review the remaining records as efficiently and expeditiously as possible, consistent with the terms of the joint status report and our available resources. Should you have questions or concerns regarding the Department's response and/or the processing of your

request, any such issues should be communicated to your legal counsel and Department of Justice Attorney, Brian Levy at [Brian.Levy2@usdoj.gov](mailto:Brian.Levy2@usdoj.gov), representing the Department in this matter.

Sincerely,

Alesia Y. Williams  
Director, FOIA Appeals and Litigation  
FOI/Privacy Acts Division