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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

MATT GALLIVAN, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
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August 6, 2026

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Acting Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Acting Attorney General Blanche:

We write to inquire about the status of the contempt referral for Dr. Ralph de la Torre, former Chairman and CEO of Steward Health Care (“Steward”).

Steward previously operated 31 hospitals in Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas.¹ On May 6, 2024, Steward Health Care declared bankruptcy.² The bankruptcy represented a culmination of financial mismanagement and self-interested incentives by Dr. de la Torre and corporate executives in health care, private equity, and real estate. The resulting harm included termination of health care workers, patient deaths, and multiple hospital closures resulting in lack of access to care.

Following the Steward bankruptcy, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP Committee) initiated an investigation into Steward’s financial mismanagement. As part of this investigation, the HELP Committee issued an invitation to Dr. de la Torre to appear before the committee.³ Dr. de la Torre declined the invitation. On July 25, 2024, the Committee voted to authorize a subpoena, *ad testificandum*, requiring Dr. de la Torre to appear on September 12, 2024.⁴

On September 12, 2024, the Committee held a hearing, “Examining the Bankruptcy of Steward Health Care: How Management Decisions Have Impacted Patient Care.”⁵ Again, Dr. de la Torre

¹ Andrew Cass, *Steward Hospitals by State*, Becker’s Hospital Review (May 6, 2024), <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/steward-hospitals-by-state/>.

² Steward Health Care System LLC, Case No. 23-90213, <https://restructuring.ra.kroll.com/steward/>.

³ S. Rept. 118-230, Proceeding Against Dr. Ralph de la Torre for Contempt of the Senate.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ “Examining the Bankruptcy of Steward Health Care: How Management Decisions Have Impacted Patient Care,” before the S. Comm. On Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, 118 Cong. (2024).

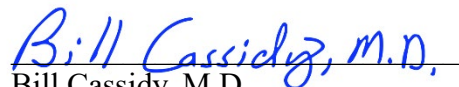
declined to appear in violation of the subpoena.⁶ However, health care workers and public officials from Louisiana and Massachusetts appeared and testified to how Steward's total financial mismanagement resulted in nurses buying bereavement boxes for the remains of babies who died when the hospitals couldn't afford to provide them. Their testimony also described how patients were receiving substandard care resulting in numerous deaths.⁷

In response to Dr. de la Torre's failure to appear, on September 19, 2024, the Committee voted 20-0 on a criminal contempt resolution.⁸ Subsequently, the Senate unanimously adopted the resolution, which certified the HELP Committee Report regarding Dr. de la Torre's failure to appear to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia for presentation to a grand jury.⁹

The Committee launched an investigation into how this bankruptcy hurt patients, workers, and communities and how corporate greed exacerbated these issues. We needed answers from Dr. de la Torre, as did the health care workers forced to treat patients in dangerous conditions, loved ones of patients who died, and communities who saw their local hospitals close or face severe financial distress. Dr. de la Torre's wealth should not make him immune to requests from Congress, especially as communities continue to grapple with the consequences of Dr. de la Torre's greed.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia has not yet acted on this important effort to hold Dr. De la Torre criminally accountable for his actions. We request an update on the status of this case and the actions taken by the U.S. Attorney by August 20, 2026.

Sincerely,


Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, and Pensions


Bernard Sanders
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, and Pensions

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ S. Rept. 118-230, Proceeding Against Dr. Ralph de la Torre for Contempt of the Senate.

⁹ S. Res. 837, An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the report of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate regarding the refusal of Dr. Ralph de la Torre to appear and testify before the Committee (2024).