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> HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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June 16, 2025

Justin Mares and Board of Directors True Medicine Inc. 1800 E 4th Street, Unit 101 Austin, TX 78702

Dear Mr. Mares and the Board of Directors of True Medicine,

I write to request information regarding True Medicine Inc.'s (TrueMed) Board of Directors' conflict of interest policies. As Calley Means, co-founder of TrueMed, continues his service at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), it is critical that the American people have confidence in the integrity of his work and your company's prevention of conflicts of interest with the Agency.

Mr. Means was appointed as a White House advisor in March 2025.<sup>1</sup> In this capacity, he serves as "special government employee" (SGE) to HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and is a leading policy-maker behind the Trump Administration's "Make America Healthy Again," or MAHA initiative.

While Mr. Means' role as an SGE means that he is able to serve in a temporary capacity without having to step away from his personal business or officially obtaining an ethics waiver,<sup>2</sup> it is notable that TrueMed's value has increased nearly three-fold since January 2024. It is not the increasing valuation of TrueMed that raises concerns but its concurrent rise alongside Mr. Means' appointment.<sup>3</sup> Your business stands to benefit from changes to regulation and legislation that your co-founder, Mr. Means, helps guide. In fact, Mr. Means has publicly stated that the role of TrueMed is to route federal funds out of providing for government programs and into expanding HSAs.<sup>4</sup> Given the pattern of self-dealing and conflicts of interest throughout this

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Reuters, et al. "White House Names Kennedy Ally Means as Health Adviser, Source Says." Edited by Alan Barona et al., *Reuters*, 18 Mar. 2025,

www.reuters.com/world/us/white-house-hires-calley-means-special-government-adviser-bloomberg-news-reports-20 25-03-18/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The White House. "Public Disclosures." WH.Gov, 2025, www.whitehouse.gov/disclosures/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Peterson, Kristina, and Corrie Driebusch. "How RFK Jr. Is Boosting 'Food Babe' and Other MAHA Acolytes."

Wall Street Journal, 9 May 2025, www.wsj.com/politics/policy/rfk-jr-maha-allies-benefit-3d1a963d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ibid.

administration, <sup>5 6 7 8 9</sup> the public deserves to know whether TrueMed is operating ethically.

For example, the Republican reconciliation package that recently passed the House (*One Big Beautiful Bill Act*) contained many provisions to significantly expand Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), in line with the services TrueMed offers.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, Executive Order 14212, *Establishing the President's Make America Healthy Again Commission*,<sup>11</sup> included a provision that health agencies must focus on reversing chronic disease by ensuring "the availability of expanded treatment options and the flexibility for health insurance coverage to provide benefits that support beneficial lifestyle changes and disease prevention," ultimately suggesting increased revenue for companies like TrueMed.

There is also speculation of Mr. Means' conflicts of interest from within the MAHA movement itself. One of TrueMed's competitors has filed an official complaint with the Office of Special Counsel, HHS Office of Civil Rights; HHS Office of Inspector General; and the Federal Trade Commission, on May 12, 2025.<sup>12</sup> This company alleges that Mr. Means used his government position to pressure them into transacting with TrueMed, threatening them with the involvement of National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Jay Bhattacharya and Secretary Kennedy in negotiations.

Therefore, I write to define for the public interest TrueMed's ongoing relationship with Mr. Means and its conflict of interest policies. Please provide responses to the following questions no later than **Friday**, **June 27**, **2025**.

- 1. What policies does the Board of TrueMed have in place to evaluate and avoid ethical concerns and potential conflicts of interest, how long have they been in place, and how are they enforced?
- 2. Can you please describe the nature of your current communications with Mr. Means? If

<sup>7</sup> Perrone, Matthew. "Takeaways from AP's Report on Financial Interests of RFK Jr. Adviser Who Runs Wellness Platform." *AP News*, AP News, 10 June 2025,

<sup>11</sup> Executive Order. No. 14212, 2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Dunleavy, Kevin. "RFK Jr.'s Referral Fees in Litigation over Merck's Gardasil Raise Conflict-of-Interest Questions: Reports." *Fierce Pharma*, 23 Jan. 2025,

www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/rfk-jrs-referral-fees-raise-conflict-interest-concerns-nyt.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Backman, Maurie, and Ellen B Kennedy. "Will Dr. Oz Push Medicare Advantage Plans Now That He's Confirmed?" *Kiplinger*, Kiplinger, 27 Feb. 2025,

www.kiplinger.com/retirement/medicare/will-dr-oz-push-medicare-advantage-plans-if-confirmed.

apnews.com/article/calley-means-rfk-maha-wellness-ethics-8bbe34cb952f31bb8b6002144bb2b975.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Rascoe, Ayesha, and Will Stone. "Dr. Casey Means, Trump's Pick for Surgeon General, Faces Criticism across the Spectrum." *NPR*, 11 May 2025,

www.npr.org/2025/05/11/nx-s1-5393721/dr-casey-means-trumps-pick-for-surgeon-general-faces-criticism-across-the-spectrum.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Karlin-Smith, Sarah. "US FDA Commissioner's Office Plans Involvement in Many Approvals in Potential Major Change." *Citeline News and Insights*, 30 Apr. 2025,

insights.citeline.com/pink-sheet/agency-leadership/us-fda/us-fda-commissioners-office-plans-involvement-in-many-approvals-in-potential-major-change-JFPWOQ2VF5D2JAFKXKGK54REZU/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Eban, Katherine. "The Dizzying Rise of Maha Warrior Calley Means, RFK Jr.'s Right-Hand Man." *Vanity Fair*, 30 May 2025, www.vanityfair.com/news/story/calley-means-rfk-jrs-maha-rise.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Barnes, Daniel. "Wellness CEO Files Ethics Complaint against Top RFK Jr. Adviser." *Politico*, 12 May 2025, www.politico.com/news/2025/05/12/calley-means-wellness-ethics-complaint-hhs-00342230.

any of your communications are or have been related to ongoing federal policy issues or agency rulemaking, please provide those communications, including but not limited to emails, chat or text messages, board meeting agendas and minutes, and memoranda.

- a. These materials would include any discussion of the drafting of the MAHA report and/or the Wellness Company's complaint filed with the Office of Special Counsel, HHS Office of Civil Rights, HHS Office of Inspector General, and the Federal Trade Commission.
- 3. Did the Board evaluate whether Mr. Means' role at HHS created a potential conflict of interest or legal liability for TrueMed?
- 4. Is TrueMed aware of whether Mr. Means has or has not signed an Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e) and/or a supplemental Periodic Transaction Report (OGE Form 278-T)?<sup>13</sup>
- 5. Has Mr. Means recused himself from any of your organization's governance activities since his appointment as an SGE in the Trump Administration?
- 6. Has the Board provided feedback or analysis to Mr. Means throughout the drafting, revising, reviewing, or other engagement regarding the Trump Administration's Executive Order entitled, *Establishing the President's Make America Healthy Again Commission* or the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*?

Ensuring health care accountability includes guaranteeing that all conflicts of interest have, in fact, been resolved. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my staff, Nikita Varman, at <u>nikita.varman@mail.house.gov</u> or at 202-225-5934.

Thank you for your attention and prompt response.

Sincerely,

Ja Dallani

Jake Auchincloss Member of Congress

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> U.S. Office of Government Ethics. "Public Financial Disclosure Guide | Introduction." *USOGE* | *Introduction*, Nov. 2024, www.oge.gov/web/278eGuide.nsf/Introduction.