The Honorable [Name]
U.S. [House of Representatives/Senate]
[Address]

[Date]

Dear [Congressman/Senator] [Name],

I am writing as a constituent and [title/role] out of deep concern regarding the recent administrative removal of Dr. Kathleen (Kathy) Neuzil from her role as Director of the Fogarty International Center at the NIH. I respectfully urge your office to seek clarification on this decision and consider intervening to reverse this potentially damaging action.

On April 11, Dr. Neuzil was placed on immediate administrative leave and offered a reassignment to the Indian Health Service without public explanation or apparent due process. This action is reportedly part of a broader set of federal workforce directives from the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

Dr. Neuzil’s reassignment follows a series of leadership changes across NIH, now affecting at least six Institute and Center directors. While it is certainly within the government’s right to terminate leaders of centers and institutes with little or no explanation before their term’s expiration, these developments have raised serious concerns within the research community about the long-term implications for scientific leadership, continuity at NIH and ultimately the health of the nation. NIH has experienced a nearly 20% reduction in staff under DOGE-mandated reorganizations, prompting questions about long-term impact on the nation’s biomedical research capacity –particularly at a time when scientific innovation and international cooperation are more vital than ever.

 Dr. Neuzil is one of the world’s foremost vaccine experts, with a long and distinguished career in global health. In just 11 months as Fogarty Director, she has demonstrated exceptional vision, commitment, and integrity. She is highly regarded across NIH and by colleagues around the world. She also serves as co-chair of an NIH-wide Executive Committee on the Health Effects of Extreme Weather and Other Natural Disasters—an area of urgent relevance to US economic, health and security interests.

The Fogarty International Center, established in 1968 in honor of Congressman John E. Fogarty, is NIH’s smallest institute but one of its most consequential. Its programs strengthen international collaboration, improve disease surveillance, and enhance pandemic preparedness—efforts that ultimately benefit the health and security of the American public.

This is an important moment for Congress to affirm its commitment to the integrity and independence of federal science agencies. Reinstating Dr. Neuzil would send powerful support for science-based leadership at NIH and reinforce the value of experience and expertise in advancing public health.

I respectfully request that your office:

1. Seek a clear and transparent accounting of the rationale for Dr. Neuzil’s reassignment;
2. Consider advocating for her immediate reinstatement as Director of the Fogarty International Center;
3. Support measures to safeguard the scientific leadership and integrity of the NIH.

Thank you for your continued leadership on matters related to science, health, and public service. I would be pleased to provide additional information or speak with your staff.

Sincerely,
[Name]

[Address]

[Email]

[Telephone]