

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 19, 2025

The Honorable Pam Bondi
U.S. Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

I write to express our frustration with the Department of Justice's continued inaction on the criminal contempt referral of Dr. Ralph de la Torre, former CEO of Steward Health Care. Nearly a year has passed since the Senate unanimously voted to hold him in contempt for defying a subpoena from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) and referred the matter to the Department for prosecution. Despite the seriousness of this referral, there has been no visible enforcement. Communities harmed by Dr. de la Torre's conduct deserve answers and accountability.

Under Dr. de la Torre's leadership, Steward—a multi-state hospital system—collapsed into bankruptcy, leaving a trail of unpaid bills, shuttered services, and harmed patients. While frontline staff reused gloves and families mourned deaths tied to understaffing, Dr. de la Torre, Steward executives, private equity managers, and real estate investors extracted hundreds of millions of dollars and spent lavishly on yachts, private jets, and luxury properties. Hospitals deteriorated and closed while they enriched themselves.¹

To better understand the circumstances of the bankruptcy, the HELP Committee subpoenaed Dr. de la Torre to testify under oath.² He refused to appear.³ The Committee then voted to hold him in civil and criminal contempt on September 19, 2024, and on September 25, 2024, the full Senate referred the matter to the Department of Justice. That referral was not symbolic; it was an assertion of Congress's authority in the face of obstruction.

After eight months without public action, I wrote on May 6, 2025.⁴ On September 2, 2025, Deputy Assistant Attorney General Ted Schroeder confirmed the Department is aware of the referral. Yet there has been no prosecution and no indication the Department intends to act on Dr. de la Torre's failure to comply with a congressional subpoena. This inaction signals that powerful executives can evade accountability simply by ignoring congressional subpoenas.

¹ Hannah Krueger et al., *Jet travel, yacht adventures, and more. How Steward's CEO used corporate funds as the company crumbled.*, Boston Globe (Sept. 19, 2024), <https://apps.bostonglobe.com/metro/investigations/spotlight/2024/09/steward-hospitals/flights/>; Mark Arsenault et al., *They died in hallways. In line. Alone. Their deaths are the human cost of Steward's financial neglect.*, Boston Globe (Sept. 6, 2024), <https://apps.bostonglobe.com/metro/investigations/spotlight/2024/09/steward-hospitals/steward-for-profit-hospitals-investigation/>.

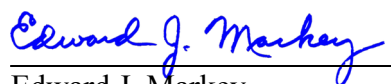
² S. Res. 837, 118th Cong. (2024) (enacted), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-resolution/837>.

³ Sarah Betancourt, *Steward Health Care CEO Ralph de la Torre ignores congressional subpoena*, GBH (Sept. 12, 2024), <https://www.wgbh.org/news/local/2024-09-12/steward-health-care-ceo-ralph-de-la-torre-ignores-congressional-subpoena>

⁴ Letter from Senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward J. Markey to Attorney General Pam Bondi (May 6, 2025), https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letters_to_doj_and_sec_re_stewardandmpt.pdf.

The families who lost loved ones, the workers who lost jobs and retirement funds, and the communities still reeling from hospital closures have not forgotten. Neither should the Department of Justice. I urge you to move swiftly on the Senate's criminal contempt referral.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward J. Markey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator