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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

AMANDA LINCOLN, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR  
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April 8, 2025

The Honorable Scott Bessent  
Secretary  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Bessent:

Safeguarding sensitive consumer data is a top goal to protect our national security. We have already seen cases where foreign adversaries such as China have sought to exploit U.S. laws to acquire information that could be used against specific individuals and our national interests.

The recent bankruptcy filing by 23andMe raises questions about potential buyers of its genetic database that contains the information of approximately 15 million customers. Chinese companies have already taken steps to collect genetic data across the world that could be used for adverse purposes.<sup>1</sup> These adversaries may similarly seek to acquire 23andMe's database and potentially use it against Americans.

The Department of the Treasury, through the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), has broad authority to review transactions that may impact the national security of the United States, including those that are part of a bankruptcy proceeding. Last year, Congress specifically raised concerns about entities with ties to the Chinese government seeking to access genetic data.<sup>2</sup> As 23andMe undergoes bankruptcy proceedings, I encourage you to use all available resources to monitor this process, including a CFIUS review to prevent hostile powers from obtaining millions of Americans' genetic information, as well as work to implement a uniform process to maximize transparency around potential sales of consumer data.

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<sup>1</sup> Julian E. Barnes, *U.S. Warns of Efforts by China to Collect Genetic Data*, The New York Times (Oct. 22, 2021), <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/22/us/politics/china-genetic-data-collection.html>.

<sup>2</sup> *Report, Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill, 2025*, Senate Committee on Appropriations (Aug. 1, 2024), <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/FY25%20FSGG%20Senate%20Report%20-%20sr206-118.pdf>, Page 13.

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I look forward to working with you on ways we can best protect the data of all Americans from potential misuse by our adversaries, and appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

*Bill Cassidy, M.D.*

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