



[Ousted Vaccine Director Files Whistleblower Complaint](#)

Dr. Rick Bright, the ousted director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, filed a whistleblower complaint against the Trump administration for ignoring his warnings about the United States' preparedness to handle the coronavirus. Dr. Bright alleged that he was reassigned to a lower position after failing to push policies favored by President Trump and some members of his cabinet. In the complaint, Bright said he raised concerns about shortages of critical medical supplies in January, but his superiors, including Health Secretary Alex Azar, did not take him seriously. Bright also accused the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) leadership of forcing him to make questionable treatments such as hydroxychloroquine widely available after the president touted them at his daily briefings. On a conference call with media members after filing the complaint, Bright said he was being pressured to put cronyism and politics above science to protect the president.

Upon receiving the whistleblower complaint, administration officials leveled a range of accusations against Bright, including mistreatment of staff and poor management of his office. However, Bright's most recent performance review awarded him glowing marks and included no criticism. Dr. Bright's attorneys are challenging his dismissal from the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, saying his demotion is a violation of the Whistleblower Protection Act. Bright's dismissal has also raised concerns about the overlap of politics and science in the Trump administration, with critics accusing officials of preferring to curry favor with the president over listening to scientific facts about the virus.