



Armenian National Committee of America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

January 30, 2026

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office for Civil Rights (OCR)
Centralized Case Management Operations
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 509F
Washington, D.C. 20201
Email: OCRComplaint@hhs.gov

SUBJECT: Civil-Rights Complaint Under Federal Nondiscrimination Laws (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 42 U.S.C. § 2000d) Against Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz for Discriminatory and Racially Charged Conduct That Harms Armenian Americans in Federally Assisted Health Programs

Basis for Complaint:

We submit this complaint under Title VI procedures administered by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) because statements and conduct by Dr. Mehmet Oz, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), in his official capacity constitute national origin discrimination and create a hostile environment for Armenian Americans—a protected group based on shared ancestry, ethnicity, and national origin.

These actions, made while overseeing and publicly representing federally funded health programs (Medicare and Medicaid), risk chilling participation, access, and trust in those programs among Armenian Americans.

Complainant Information:

Organization: Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA)
Contact Person: Aram Hamparian, Executive Director
Address: 1711 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036
Phone/Email: (202) 775-1918 / anca@anca.org, aram@anca.org

ANCA NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
1711 N St NW
Washington, DC 20036
ph: 202 775 1918, fx: 202 223 7964
www.anca.org, anca@anca.org

ANCA WESTERN REGION
104 N Belmont Street, Suite 200
Glendale, CA 91206
ph: 818 500 1918
www.ancawr.org, info@ancawr.org

ANCA EASTERN REGION
80 Bigelow Ave.
Watertown, MA 02472
ph: 917 428 1918
www.anca.org, ancaer@anca.org

Relationship to Affected Community:

ANCA, the national grassroots advocacy organization representing the views and values of Armenian and allied Americans across all fifty states, is dedicated to defending Armenian American civil rights, equal treatment, and protection from discrimination before federal agencies.

Respondent Information:

Name: Dr. Mehmet Oz

Title: Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Agency: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Description of the Alleged Discriminatory Actions:

On or about January 27–28, 2026, Dr. Oz posted and disseminated a video on official CMS-related social media accounts (including X @DrOzCMS and Facebook @DrOzCMS) during an official fraud-prevention tour in Los Angeles’ Van Nuys neighborhood.

In the video, he alleged widespread fraud in hospice and home care services under Medicare and Medicaid, claiming roughly \$3.5 billion in such fraud in Los Angeles, with “quite a bit of it” run by the “Russian Armenian mafia.”

Dr. Oz stood in front of an Armenian-owned bakery, pointed to Armenian-language signage, and stated: “You notice the lettering and language behind me is of that dialect and it also highlights the fact that this is an organized crime mafia deal.” He referenced a four-block area with 42 hospices and a separate business tied to a \$16 million fraud case, but provided no verified evidence linking the highlighted Armenian bakery, signage, or surrounding community businesses to any fraud. The bakery is, by all accounts, unrelated to hospice or home care services.

These statements were made in Dr. Oz’s official capacity as CMS Administrator, overseeing Medicare and Medicaid, programs providing federal financial assistance, and were posted on agency-affiliated channels, potentially influencing program integrity efforts, beneficiary trust, and enforcement in ways that discriminate based on national origin.

California officials, including Governor Gavin Newsom, condemned the claims as “baseless and racially charged,” noting that they target Armenian Americans without substantiation and risk discouraging participation in federally funded health programs.

Impact on Protected Individuals / Community

Dr. Oz's conduct has caused tangible and non-speculative harm:

- The featured Armenian bakery owner reported a sharp decline in business (approximately 30 percent according to some accounts) due to reputational damage and stigmatization following the video's widespread circulation.
- Armenian Americans in California and nationwide may reasonably fear heightened scrutiny, biased enforcement, reduced access, or retaliation in Medicare, Medicaid, hospice, and home care programs based on ethnicity.
- The ethnic framing perpetuates harmful stereotypes attributing criminality to an entire community, chilling participation in critical HHS-funded health initiatives for vulnerable populations and creating a hostile environment inconsistent with Title VI.
- Such stigmatization by the senior federal official overseeing these programs reasonably deters Armenian American beneficiaries, providers, and caregivers from seeking or participating in Medicare and Medicaid-funded services.

Legal Basis for Relief:

Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, including ethnicity and ancestry, in programs receiving federal financial assistance. HHS regulations (45 C.F.R. Part 80) and OCR guidance cover hostile environments, stereotyping, and conduct by officials that adversely affects program beneficiaries or participants.

As CMS Administrator, Dr. Oz's official statements are directly connected to the administration of federally assisted programs, rendering this conduct actionable under Title VI.

Armenian Americans constitute a protected class under Title VI based on shared ancestry and national origin, regardless of citizenship, language, or immigration status.

Remedy Requested


We respectfully request that OCR:

1. Investigate whether Dr. Oz's statements and video constitute national origin discrimination or create a hostile or intimidating environment in HHS-funded programs.
2. Require appropriate corrective actions, including public clarification, staff training on nondiscrimination, removal or amendment of the video if warranted, and measures to prevent recurrence by federal officials.
3. Issue findings and take any necessary enforcement action consistent with Title VI and HHS policies.

Supporting Documentation:

- X/Twitter video of Dr. Oz:
<https://x.com/DrOzCMS/status/2016150183868878882>

Submitted:



Aram Hamparian
Executive Director
Armenian National Committee of America