

Web 57DHWVA August 30 2025 RFK Junior versus rare bipartisan pushback after CDC director fired

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0 RAWSEP View 1 Susan Monarez demonstrated that she is not aligned with the Trump agenda Monarez refused to resign so the White House moved to terminate her Whether this is legal can be decided in part by the Senate apparently 2 Senator Patty Murray did not think apparent RFK Junior MAHA follower Susan Monarez would stand up against RFK Junior for science and for adequate medical care but Susan Monarez surprised Patty Murray 3 After four weeks in her job as head of the CDC Susan Monarez had had enough and stood up against RFK Junior at which point RFK Junior promptly terminated her although he did not have the authority to do so 4 Trump finished the termination process although it was apparently not legal to do so 5 Giving the Trump agenda more coherence than it deserves the Trump agenda is apparently to act directly in opposition to science and medicine and create a society where public health and clean energy is devalued against the interests of profits for the fossil fuel industry and the profits for pricey holistic rather than medical cures for human ailments offered by antivaccine skeptics who are also in the business of suing companies who offer legitimate proven vaccine cures 6 Retribution against Doctors who give you Vaccines does not make sense but it has given RFK Junior pocket money as he has aided in lawsuits against companies who offer legitimate proven vaccine cures 7 Money is the root of all evil in this case at least since millions may die unnecessarily when denied vaccines because of the profit motive of RFK Junior

1 RAWSEP View Does Germany have the military capacity to offer security to Ukraine? Does the recent drone activity by Ukraine into Russian territory hold promise for Ukraine? Two New York Times articles examine these questions

2 RAWSEP View What is on the mind of Trump? He is concerned that people are rolling their eyes at him He would like to decorate with more gold Trump may be carrying out the whims of Stephen Miller and Russell Vought instead of coming up with original thoughts these days although his stream of consciousness utterances suggest he is all in on the chaotic plan of attack on public health and attack on the climate **RAWSEP View** What might thwart Trump tasteless redecorating plan? RAWSEP turns to a relevant Ballotopedia newsletter article titled Thirteen states could consider redrawing congressional boundaries before the 2026 midterms **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP Residents against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** August 4 2025 Thirteen states could consider

redrawing congressional boundaries before the 2026 midterms. While states must redraw district boundaries through congressional redistricting after every 10 year census at least 13 states must be considering or may be ordered by a court to redraw boundaries before the 2026 midterm elections. In the July 23 Daily Brew we covered storylines in California and Texas. Today we will look at other states that are also considering redistricting. As of July 30 Republicans have a 219-212 majority with four vacancies in the U.S. House of Representatives. Three of those vacancies happened due to the deaths of three Democrats and another happened due to the resignation of one Republican. Democrats see retaking the House as the best chance of the Democratic Party to break the Republican hold on Congress and Trump is determined to keep the GOP majority. The U.S. Constitution requires the districts resulting from redistricting to have nearly equal populations and not cause racial or ethnic voting discrimination. The procedures vary by state. In 33 states legislatures play the dominant role in redistricting. In nine states commissions draw district lines. Two states use hybrid systems where the legislatures share redistricting authority with commissions. Ohio is required to redraw its map heading into the midterms. In 2022 the Ohio Supreme Court struck down the enacted map in Ohio and ordered the Ohio Legislature to redraw it. However legislative leaders said they would not meaning the Ohio Redistricting Commission assumed responsibility for redrawing it. The seven member commission included two Republican and two Democratic state legislators. The Ohio governor secretary of state and auditor all Republicans also served on the commission. According to state law since the commission approved a new map without bipartisan support it could only stay in place for four years. Now it is up to the Republican controlled Legislature to redraw the map. Two Republican led states Georgia and Louisiana have maps subject to change due to ongoing litigation. The legislature plays the dominant role in redistricting in both of those states. Georgia needed to redraw its map in 2023 due to litigation. However the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia upheld the map and the state used it in the 2024 elections. The plaintiffs appealed that approval to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit where it sits now. Louisiana enacted a new map in 2024 due to litigation. The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana struck down the new map but the U.S. Supreme Court blocked the ruling to prevent confusion in the 2024 elections which used the challenged map. The appeal now sits with the U.S. Supreme Court which scheduled the case for reargument in October 2025. Nine states are considering a voluntary redraw of their maps. Texas is the only one that has taken official action on the matter so far. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott R added redistricting to the Texas 30 day special legislative session agenda. On July 30 Texas Republicans released a proposed map that would create five more Republican leaning districts. Florida and Missouri are the other Republican led states considering a voluntary redraw of their maps. Like Texas the legislature plays the dominant role in redistricting in both states. Democratic led states that are also considering a voluntary redraw of their maps include California Illinois Maryland New Jersey New York Oregon and Washington. The legislature plays the dominant role in redistricting in Illinois Oregon and Maryland. A court ruling or a special election would be necessary to pursue redistricting in the other states.

3 Susan Monarez is not aligned with the Trump agenda and refused to resign so the White House terminated her. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP Residents against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization. The Denver Post August 28 2025. Susan Monarez is not aligned with the Trump agenda and refused to resign so the White House terminated her. Her spokesman Kush Desai said Wednesday night. Her lawyers said she was targeted for standing up for science. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services had announced her departure in a brief social media post late Wednesday afternoon. Her lawyers responded with a statement saying Monarez had neither resigned nor been told she was fired. When CDC Director Susan Monarez refused to rubber stamp unscientific reckless directives and fire dedicated health experts she chose protecting the public over serving a political agenda. For that she has been targeted attorneys Mark Zaid and Abbe David Lowell wrote in a statement. This is not about one official. It is about the systematic dismantling of public health institutions the

silencing of experts and the dangerous politicization of science. The attack on Doctor Monarez is a warning to every American our evidence based systems are being undermined from within they said. Her departure coincided with the resignations this week of at least four top CDC officials. The list includes Doctor Debra Houry the CDC deputy director Doctor Daniel Jernigan head of the CDC National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases Doctor Demetre Daskalakis head of the CDC National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases and Doctor Jennifer Layden director of the Office of Public Health Data Surveillance and Technology. Houry lamented the crippling effects on the agency from planned budget cuts reorganization and firings. I am committed to protecting the health of the public but the ongoing changes prevent me from continuing in my job as a leader of the agency she wrote. She also noted the rise of misinformation about vaccines during the current Trump and alluded to new limits on CDC communications. For the good of the nation and the world the science at CDC should never be censored or subject to political pauses or interpretations she wrote. Daskalakis worked closely with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. RFK Junior remade the committee by firing everyone and replacing them with a group that included several vaccine skeptics one of whom was put in charge of a COVID 19 vaccines workgroup. In his resignation letter Daskalakis lamented that the changes put people of dubious intent and more dubious scientific rigor in charge of recommending vaccine policy. He described Monarez as hamstrung and sidelined by an authoritarian leader. He added Their desire to please a political base will result in death and disability of vulnerable children and adults. He also wrote I am unable to serve in an environment that treats CDC as a tool to generate policies and materials that do not reflect scientific reality. HHS officials did not immediately respond to questions about the resignations. Some public health experts decried the loss of so many of CDC scientific leaders. The CDC is being decapitated. This is an absolute disaster for public health said the Public Citizen Doctor Robert Steinbrook. Michael Osterholm a University of Minnesota infectious disease researcher said the departures were a serious loss for America. The loss of experienced world class infectious disease experts at CDC is directly related to the failed leadership of extremists currently in charge of the Department of Health and Human Services he said. They make our country less safe and less prepared for public health emergencies. Monarez at age 50 was the 21st director of the CDC and the first to pass through Senate confirmation following a 2023 law. She was named acting director in January and then tapped as the nominee in March after Trump abruptly withdrew his first choice David Weldon. She was sworn in on July 31 less than a month ago making her the shortest serving CDC director in the history of the 79 year old agency. Her short time at CDC was tumultuous. On August 8 at the end of her first full week on the job a Georgia man opened fire from a spot at a pharmacy across the street from CDC main entrance. The 30 year old man blamed the COVID 19 vaccine for making him depressed and suicidal. He killed a police officer and fired more than 180 shots into CDC buildings before killing himself. No one at CDC was injured but it shell shocked a staff that already had low morale from other recent changes. Monarez had scheduled an all hands meeting for the CDC staff seen as an important step in addressing concerns among staff since the shooting for Monday this week. But HHS officials meddled with that too canceling it and calling Monarez to Washington DC. said a CDC official who was not authorized to talk about it and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity. The Atlanta based federal agency was initially founded to prevent the spread of malaria in the U S. Its mission was later expanded and it gradually became a global leader on infectious and chronic diseases and a go to source of health information. This year it is been hit by widespread staff cuts resignations of key officials and heated controversy over long standing CDC vaccine policies upended by Health Secretary RFK Junior. During her Senate confirmation process Monarez told senators that she values vaccines public health interventions and rigorous scientific evidence. But she largely dodged questions about whether those positions put her at odds with RFK Junior a longtime vaccine skeptic who has criticized and sought to dismantle some of the previous protocols and decisions of the CDC. Senator Patty Murray a Washington Democrat praised Monarez for standing up to RFK Junior and called for him to be fired. We cannot let RFK Junior burn

what is left of the CDC and our other critical health agencies to the ground she said in a statement Wednesday night. The Washington Post first reported Monarez was ousted.

4 CDC Standoff: The RFK Junior Push to Fire Director Devolves Into Chaos. Lawyers for the CDC chief Susan Monarez insist that the impasse with Health Secretary RFK Junior can only be resolved by President Trump. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP Residents against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization. The New York Times, August 28, 2025. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention dissolved into further turmoil on Thursday when guards escorted three top officials from the CDC Atlanta headquarters during the continuing standoff with the Trump over whether the CDC director would keep her job. The high ranking officials decided to quit as Health Secretary RFK Junior was demanding that the CDC director Susan Monarez either resign or be fired in a dispute largely over vaccine policy. The White House said late Wednesday that Doctor Monarez, an infectious disease researcher who was sworn in less than a month ago, had been dismissed. But her lawyers, who said she had chosen protecting the public over serving a political agenda, insisted that she remained CDC director until President Trump fired her personally. The dispute now appears to be in the hands of Trump, who has not weighed in publicly. A spokesman for the White House did not respond to an inquiry about whether the president would fire Doctor Monarez. On Thursday morning, RFK Junior criticized the CDC: "The agency is in trouble and we need to fix it and we are fixing it and it may be that some people should not be working there anymore. With Doctor Monarez facing an uncertain future at best and the top ranks of the CDC depleted, leading public health experts wondered aloud on Thursday whether the CDC could recover and what might happen should a pandemic or other health crisis arise. As bad as things have been since January, the firing of thousands of federal health workers, extreme budget cuts, the ongoing assault on the American vaccination system, what we saw yesterday was another level, entirely an extraordinary and systematic dismantling of the very top of our American public health system," said Doctor Richard Besser, a former acting director of the agency. In Washington, senators from both parties expressed dismay at the events unfolding at the CDC. The Republican-led Senate voted only last month to confirm Doctor Monarez; she is the first CDC director to be subject to Senate confirmation. As such, she works at the pleasure of the president, not RFK Junior. The chairman of the Senate health committee, Senator Bill Cassidy, a Louisiana Republican and physician who voted for RFK Junior after publicly agonizing over it, said on social media late Wednesday that the high-profile departures will require oversight by his panel. Senator Bernie Sanders, the Vermont independent and ranking member of the panel, called for a hearing with RFK Junior and Doctor Monarez and said the attempt to fire her was outrageous. Senator Patty Murray, Democrat of Washington and a former chairwoman of the committee, called for the RFK Junior immediate termination. Ms. Murray, who voted against the Doctor Monarez confirmation, said in a statement that she had serious doubts about the Director Monarez's willingness to stand up against the RFK Junior personal mission to destroy public health in America. She added, "I am glad to say that I was wrong." The three officials who were ushered out the door by security on Thursday had resigned en masse. CDC employees had planned to gather at agency headquarters in Atlanta at 2:45 pm for a clap-out send-off to honor them, but they were rushed out before it could happen. The officials had decades of government experience and all influenced vaccine policy. Doctor Debra Houry, the CDC chief medical officer, coordinated the various arms of the agency. Doctor Demetre Daskalakis ran the center that oversees respiratory illnesses and issues vaccine recommendations. Doctor Daniel Jernigan supervised the center that oversees emerging diseases and vaccine safety. A fourth official, Doctor Jennifer Layden, who resigned a day earlier, led the office of public health data. Morale at the CDC has plummeted in recent months with employees buffeted by mass layoffs and deep cuts in funding and core functions. The CDC director has been fired, the White House says, but she is refusing to leave. And the agency and its employees are still reeling from a deadly shooting at its Atlanta headquarters in early August. A gunman fired hundreds of rounds at the building during work hours, killing a police officer, shattering windows, and terrifying employees. A makeshift memorial in

honor of David Rose the officer who was killed in the shooting at the C D C earlier this month According to people familiar with the events the relationship between RFK Junior and Doctor Monarez an infectious disease researcher and a government scientist who has worked for administrations of both parties over 20 years splintered over vaccine policy In meetings this week RFK Junior demanded that Doctor Monarez fire top agency officials He also insisted that she agree to accept recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Policy or A C I P an expert panel that has recently been reconstituted by RFK Junior with some members who have questioned the safety of current vaccines The committee is scheduled to meet again on September 18 and 19 and may consider recommendations for a wide array of vaccines including those for hepatitis B Covid respiratory syncytial virus RSV and a combination vaccine for measles mumps rubella and varicella according to an agenda posted on the Federal Register After Doctor Monarez refused The RFK Junior demands she called Senator Cassidy who in turn called RFK Junior which angered the health secretary according to an administration official familiar with the events Doctor Besser who led the agency in the early days of the Obama administration and now leads the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation a charitable organization focused on health said that he spoke to Doctor Monarez on Wednesday and that she told him there were two things she would not do in her job One was anything that was deemed illegal and the second was anything that she felt flew in the face of science Doctor Besser said And she said she was asked to do both of those one in terms of firing her leadership who are talented civil servants like herself and the other was to rubber stamp A C I P recommendations that flew in the face of science And she was not going to do either of those things RFK Junior signaled his intention to transform immunization policies when he fired all 17 independent scientific advisers to the C D C and replaced them with eight people of his own choosing One later dropped out because of financial conflicts of interest The high profile resignations this week are only the latest in a series of exits at the agency since RFK Junior took office In April as the C D C and other agencies were sharply pared down some C D C leaders were placed on administrative leave and a few took early retirement Two experts in vaccine policy left the agency in June saying they feared for the lives of Americans if RFK Junior were to continue unchecked Doctor Lakshmi Panagiotakopoulos oversaw the Covid vaccine working group before she resigned in June it is heartbreaking to witness such important nuanced work being led by someone who has shown publicly at the A C I P meeting that he not only does not understand the data but is also dedicated to baseless conspiracy theories she said about Doctor Levi on Thursday The newest resignations are a sign of how dire things are at the agency she said

5 Oklahoma and 5 Other States Arizona New Jersey Ohio Oklahoma Texas and Washington Medicare Will Require Prior Approval for Certain Procedures A pilot program in six states will use a tactic employed by private insurers that has been heavily criticized for delaying and denying medical care Excerpts edited by RAWSEP Residents against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization The New York Times August 28 2025 Like millions of older adults Frances L Ayres faced a choice when picking health insurance Pay more for traditional Medicare or opt for a plan offered by a private insurer and risk drawn out fights over coverage Private insurers often require a cumbersome review process that frequently results in the denial or delay of essential treatments that are readily covered by traditional Medicare This practice known as prior authorization has drawn public scrutiny which intensified after the murder of a UnitedHealthcare executive last December Ayres a 74 year old retired accounting professor said she wanted to avoid the hassle that has been associated with such practices under Medicare Advantage which are private plans financed by the U S government Now she is concerned she will face those denials anyway The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services plans to begin a pilot program that would involve a similar review process for traditional Medicare the federal insurance program for people 65 and older as well as for many younger people with disabilities The pilot would start in six states next year including Oklahoma where Ayres lives The federal government plans to hire private companies to use artificial intelligence to determine whether patients would be covered for some procedures like certain spine surgeries or steroid injections Similar

algorithms used by insurers have been the subject of several high profile lawsuits which have asserted that the technology allowed the companies to swiftly deny large batches of claims and cut patients off from care in rehabilitation facilities. The A I companies selected to oversee the program would have a strong financial incentive to deny claims. Medicare plans to pay them a share of the savings generated from rejections. The government said the A I screening tool would focus narrowly on about a dozen procedures which it has determined to be costly and of little to no benefit to patients. Those procedures include devices for incontinence control cervical fusion certain steroid injections for pain management select nerve stimulators and the diagnosis and treatment of impotence. Abe Sutton the director of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation said that the government would not review emergency services or hospital stays. Experts worry that the pilot program may pave the way for traditional Medicare to adopt some of the most unpopular practices of private insurers. The program called the Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction Model is already drawing opposition from Democratic lawmakers former Medicare officials physician groups and others. Patients are also leery. I think it is the back door into privatizing traditional Medicare Ayres said. People enrolled in traditional Medicare who live in Arizona New Jersey Ohio Oklahoma Texas and Washington State will be included in the experiment which is expected to start in January and last for six years. If the algorithm used to authorize certain procedures proves to save the government money Doctor Rathi fears C M S may feel justified in broadening the program to include services that are not such low hanging fruit. You are kind of left to wonder well where does this lead next? he said. You could be running into a slippery slope. How insurers make their decisions remains opaque. A spokesman for Health and Human Services which oversees the Medicare agency declined to identify which companies had submitted applications for the contract. Contractors hired by the government are supposed to watch over payments to ward against inappropriate or wasteful coverage. Those reviews generally happened after someone had received a treatment though the Biden administration instituted a modest pre approval program that did not use A I. The new model relies on an additional set of private companies for traditional Medicare that have a very clear incentive to deny care. The companies represent a whole new bounty hunter said David A Lipschutz the co director for the Center for Medicare Advocacy one of the groups that has urged government officials to abandon the program.

6 Russian Drones Are Flying Over United States Weapons Routes in Germany Officials Say. United States and European military officials are increasingly concerned about the flights even as Russian acts of sabotage have declined. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP Residents against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization. The New York Times August 28 2025. Russia or its proxies are flying surveillance drones over routes that the United States and its allies use to ferry military supplies through eastern Germany collecting intelligence that could be used to bolster the sabotage campaign of the Kremlin and assist its troops in Ukraine according to U S and other Western officials. U S and German officials have been discussing Russian sabotage efforts including information that led to the arrest in May of three Ukrainian men accused in a Russia linked plot the officials said. The Russian sabotage campaign has led to fires at warehouses in Britain an attack against a dam in Norway attempts to cut cables under the Baltic Sea and an array of operations intended to bring the war in Ukraine closer to the heart of Europe and to undermine support for Kyiv. After hitting a high last year Russian sabotage acts have fallen off significantly this year experts and Western intelligence officials said. A report published in March stated that Russian attacks in Europe quadrupled between 2022 and 2023 and then tripled again between 2023 and 2024. But there has been a significant drop off in the first six months of this year with only four incidents qualifying as sabotage or attempted sabotage by Russia. The threat remains as Europeans struggle to coordinate a response. During the Biden administration the United States provided intelligence to Europe to help push for a united front across NATO countries. The intelligence sharing has continued under Trump. U S spy agencies have been providing information to European governments about potential sabotage actions. That has included a warning to German

intelligence officials about a plot to send explosives or incendiary devices on cargo planes transiting Germany. The warning resulted in the arrest of the three Ukrainian nationals in Germany and Switzerland. The Berlin office of the federal prosecutor said in a statement at the time that the plan appeared to be part of a plot to damage logistical infrastructure for commercial freight. The devices were addressed to locations in Ukraine but people briefed on the matter said it was not clear if those were the targets or if the devices were intended to go off on cargo planes in Germany. While Russian intelligence operations have been under ever stricter scrutiny they have retained the ability to recruit people to carry out attacks throughout Europe according to Western officials. As a result U.S. and European military officials have been increasingly concerned about the drone flights in Germany. The flights concentrated in the eastern German state of Thuringia were also reported by *WirtschaftsWoche*, a German publication that has reported extensively on the sabotage campaign. *WirtschaftsWoche* reported that Germany was building up its anti-drone systems at military bases. A spokesman for the German armed services told the publication that the drone flights near military bases were a considerable security risk. The publication also reported that at least some of the drones were manufactured in Iran and German intelligence officials believe at least some of the flights might have originated from ships in the Baltic Sea. U.S. officials confirmed the flights but said they were unable to track their origin. They believe the drones have been flown by Russians or people working for Russian intelligence services. The drone surveillance was most likely related to battlefield intelligence meant to give the Russian army a better idea of what weaponry it would face and when should Russia decide to step up its sabotage operations. In the future it could use the information being collected by the drone flights. If at some point the Russians wanted to get more aggressive and forward leaning with that kind of intelligence collection they know what companies are exporting and what routes are being used. It would be useful if they wanted to conduct sabotage or subversive operations.

7 This Week in Trump land. Trump meets members of the media at the White House in Washington DC. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP Residents against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization. The Guardian August 27 2025. The roller of the eyes. Trump has had quite the week but he is not quite making sense. Trump is on a tear. In the past few days the 78 year old president has been opining like a drunk uncle at a wedding about everything from the death penalty to how deep down maybe people really want a dictator. It is not clear what set him off. Trump does not drink but the president has been thrashing about like a confused bull in a China shop where all the plates are covered in right wing buzzwords. Let us break it down. First Trump Quote: You get murdered. Trump praised himself for controversially deploying the national guard to Washington claiming that prior to that: You come here from Iowa you come here from Indiana you come here from Idaho because you are so proud of your country you love your country and then you get murdered your son gets murdered your daughter gets murdered. You get murdered. See the media you get murdered. 2nd Trump Quote: Maybe people like dictator. In the same press conference Trump mused referring to Democrats: They say we do not need him Trump. He is a dictator. A lot of people are saying: Maybe we like a dictator. I do not like a dictator. I am not a dictator. I am a man with great common sense and I am a smart person. As has happened frequently in recent weeks Trump struggled to stay on topic. Here is what he said to the grieving families: This is the new and improved Oval Office. We had an Oval Office which was still the Oval Office so I do not want to disrespect it but now it is uh it is very special. You see what is happened and everyone loves it. 24 carat gold. People come from all over and uh I do believe they are serious. They are not rolling their eyes you know the roller of the eyes but we do not have any of them. And we brought the pictures up. Works of art. Lincoln it is Lincoln Washington Thomas Jefferson Andrew Jackson. That is Monroe of the Monroe document. Cool huh? To readers are you Confused? Frustrated? That is ok. Just do not be a roller of the eyes. 8 A Peace Deal for Ukraine Could Test German Reluctance to Deploy Troops. The question of whether to send soldiers to a postwar Ukraine is the latest chapter in an evolving relationship between Germans and their military. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP Residents against Wood Smoke

Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization The New York Times August 27 2025 A long road remains for any peace deal in Ukraine despite weeks of furious diplomacy and optimistic predictions from President Trump But in Germany political leaders are already debating a crucial detail for any final agreement whether the German Army will send troops to help keep the peace The debate which has intensified in recent weeks will help determine how much of a so called security guarantee Europe alone could provide to Ukraine after the war concludes It is important for Chancellor Friedrich Merz as he attempts to establish again German leadership on the continent and around the world And in many ways it is the latest episode in the increasingly evolving relationship with national defense and military service spurred on in Germany by Russian aggression and American detachment from Europe After successive governments allowed the military to atrophy with the end of the Cold War the army of Germany is being rebuilt with record spending Polls show a majority of voters approve But Germans remain largely reluctant to serve in their armed forces and are not flocking to their local recruitment offices The country is so in need of soldiers that the defense ministry is expected to present a new plan to reinstate a watered down version of a military draft which is expected to pass a cabinet vote this week Under this proposal 18 year old men must complete a survey assessing their fitness to serve and the military would try to convince those best suited to serve to enlist before going to a conscription option That reluctance around the deployment of and serving in the military is now being tested by the prospect of sending German troops to patrol what would effectively be a front line facing Russia in Ukraine where Nazi soldiers committed atrocities in World War II Merz has hinted that he would be open to including German forces in a European security mission to Ukraine something other European leaders seem to welcome Many Germans including some in the party of Merz are less enthusiastic A German security deployment to Ukraine would likely overwhelm the military which already has troops stationed in Lithuania to guard against possible Russian aggression Foreign Minister Johann Wadepful told the Table Today podcast in Germany this month Michael Kretschmer the powerful governor of the eastern state of Saxony who plays a powerful role in The Christian Democratic Party of Merz told the news site Der Spiegel that the armed forces lack the necessary resources to guarantee The Ukraine security The Merz spokesmen have stressed that security guarantees could come in many forms including air support and German training for Ukrainian troops And the government has not ruled out German boots on the ground unlike Trump and his officials who have repeatedly said no American soldiers will be part of a postwar security force for Ukraine The ambiguity has fed critiques from the far right Alternative for Germany or AfD which is the largest opposition party in Parliament and which has strong ties to Russia Ukraine and Russia remain far apart on the details of any postwar security guarantee Russia is insisting it be included in any such guarantee which Ukraine sees as not a starter Ukraine wants guarantees from Europe and the United States Trump has expressed openness to some security assistance but not troops President Emmanuel Macron of France first mentioned sending European troops to Ukraine early last year earning a rebuke from Olaf Scholz the Germany chancellor at the time who went as far as filming a video from the chancellery promising Germans they would never have to fear being sent to Ukraine But after meeting with Trump and other European leaders last week in Washington Merz hinted that German troops could possibly be involved He said the German role in security guarantees for Ukraine could require parliamentary approval which would be the case only if he proposed sending German troops abroad Nico Lange a security expert who was the chief of staff of a former defense minister said such a step would fit with The Merz vision of a more muscular Germany leading a more independent Europe Merz deliberately is saying based on political logic that if something like this happens Germany will of course participate Lange said 9 Climate change transforms summer in Europe **Excerpts**

edited by RAWSEP Residents against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization The New York Times August 26 2025 This summer record wildfires have raged across Europe burning more than a million hectares of land and forcing people to evacuate their homes A five day stretch of extreme heat killed hundreds of people Spain baked through its most intense heat wave on record and the United Kingdom is all but certain to have seen its hottest summer ever In Europe which has warmed

about twice as fast as the global average climate change has begun to force difficult questions about the economic and cultural costs of adapting to a dangerously warming planet. Hotter summers are reshaping the European tourism industry prompting cities to plan for days of asphalt melting heat and sparking national debates about the use of air conditioning. Wildfires have added to health risks this summer. At the same time the summer overall temperatures across the region were somewhat normal.

10 Russia and Ukraine Target Energy Sites Seeking Leverage Away From the Front. The two countries appear to be trying to raise political pressure on each other and send signals to Washington in case peace talks move forward. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP Residents against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization. The New York Times August 26 2025. Fire engulfing a gas terminal near St. Petersburg. Oil storage tanks lying toppled twisted and burned in southern Ukraine. Drone attacks briefly shutting down one of the longest oil pipelines in the world used by Moscow to supply Central Europe. Just as world leaders are attempting to jump start peace talks the energy war between Kyiv and Moscow is heating up as each side tries to weaken the hand of the other in negotiating an end to the war. Just this month the Ukrainian Army has claimed at least 10 attacks on Russian oil facilities with Russian officials acknowledging half of them. The strikes temporarily knocked out as much as one sixth of The Russian refining capacity analysts say while gasoline prices spiked. Russian forces for their part have stepped up attacks on key Ukrainian gas and oil facilities stoking fears of shortages this winter.

Ihor Klymenko The Ukraine interior minister said in an interview on Monday that 20 energy facilities including electrical substations oil refineries and thermal power plants had been damaged over the last 10 nights. In all this has become one of the most intense periods of energy strikes in the war. After a period of relative calm this spring the energy war is back said Andrii Zhupanyyn chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament subcommittee on natural gas policy. Both sides have long targeted energy facilities to inflict damage away from a front line. Russia has repeatedly hit The Ukraine power grid to sap civilian morale. Ukraine using a drone fleet that has grown immensely in number and sophistication has struck Russian oil refineries in a bid to create shortages and curb one of the main revenue sources of the Kremlin. The energy strikes serve that purpose energy experts say as each side tries to persuade the other that it cannot afford to prolong the war and to signal to the White House that it has an advantage and is willing to keep fighting. For Ukraine these strikes are important leverage. Strikes on energy targets have been a defining feature of this war. In the first three years Russia systematically targeted power plants and substations aiming to cut off electricity that powers The Ukraine economy and to plunge Ukrainians into darkness to break their morale. Ukraine began attacking oil refineries only in early 2024 hoping to chip away at the profits Moscow makes from oil product exports. Some of these attacks caused significant damage including widespread blackouts in Ukraine but they did not force either side to compromise on its war aims. They proved harmful enough to push both countries to agree in March to a moratorium on energy strikes during the Trump early efforts at brokering a peace deal. Russia began by striking a key oil refinery in Kremenchuk in June causing serious damage according to Zhupanyyn the lawmaker. Moscow has also hit Ukrainian gas facilities targets it avoided during the first three years of the war when pipelines through Ukraine were still used to transport Russian gas to Europe. Gas is a crucial resource in Ukraine fueling most centralized heating systems in apartment buildings across the country. It also accounts for more than half of the production of fertilizers and chemical compounds said Klymenko the interior minister. If shortages occur he said it would lead to the shutdown of plants and factories cold homes social unrest and panic. Zhupanyyn estimated that the attacks had cost Ukraine about 1 billion cubic meters of natural gas about 5 percent of its annual needs forcing the government to urgently seek funding from European partners to buy and import gas supplies ahead of the winter heating season. Following these attacks Ukraine struck back with repeated attacks on Russian oil infrastructure. Long range Ukrainian drones attacked oil refineries in southwestern and central Russia sparking extensive fires and knocking out operations at several facilities. Among the targets was the giant Lukoil refinery in Volgograd the largest in southern Russia and one of the top 10 producers in Russia. The Reuters news agency calculated that recent strikes had disrupted 17 percent of The Russian refining

capacity Analysts say repairs could take longer than usual because sanctions prohibit Western sales of key components to Russia Ukraine has long said its strikes on refineries have three goals to disrupt Russian fuel supplies for tanks and aircraft to curb profits of Moscow from oil exports and to disrupt daily life for average Russians Kyiv has so far fallen short on the first two goals said a former top manager at Gazprom Neft one of the largest oil producers in Russia The Russian slow advance on the battlefield carried out largely by troops on foot or motorcycles means fuel consumption is not a major factor he said and it has enough surplus refining capacity to absorb the impact of the attacks for now In addition most of the oil export revenue in Russia come from crude not refined oil products But on the third aim of disrupting daily life Ukraine may be having some success The wholesale price of gasoline rose 12 percent in a month through August and there were shortages around the country though it is hard to quantify how much of that is due to drone attacks The strikes coincided with peak vacation and harvesting seasons when the demand for gasoline is highest and when there were shortages in some years before the war In Crimea which was annexed by Russia in 2014 local news outlets have reported long lines at gas stations and drivers scurrying from one station to another trying to fill their fuel tanks In a televised interview Sergei Aksyonov the Russia appointed chief of Crimea said the disruptions were caused by significantly lower production at three oil refineries in southern Russia because of objective reasons In one region in The Russian Far East local authorities said gas stations had to stop selling one type of fuel because of shortages In Vladivostok a major Russian city on the Pacific locals helped one another find fuel by reporting availability and prices at gas stations to a local news outlet Local authorities blamed an influx of tourists for the shortages At the end of July the Russian government banned gasoline exports until the end of August On Monday it said it would extend the restrictions The government never mentioned drone strikes instead referring to peak summer demand A new Ukrainian goal has been to cut Russian fuel supplies to Central Europe Last week Ukraine struck the Druzhba pipeline which supplies Russian crude oil to Hungary and Slovakia whose current leaders have maintained ties with the Kremlin and taken hostile positions toward Ukraine Prime Minister Viktor Orban of Hungary who has partly blocked The Ukraine bid to join the European Union reacted angrily and wrote a letter to President Trump to complain of an unfriendly move that threatens energy security in Hungary Trump responded that he was very angry about the attacks according to a letter released by the Orban governing Fidesz party A White House official confirmed the authenticity of the letter The Trump reaction does not seem to have caused concern in Ukraine A day after the letter was published the head of The Ukraine drone forces even boasted about attacking the pipeline The strikes said Zhupanyyn the Ukrainian lawmaker are a good tool to show that as Trump says we have some cards in our hands 11

Transcript excerpts from recent video of Heather Cox Richardson **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP**

Residents against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization August 28 2025 I wanted to talk about what is happening at the CDC Yesterday there was an attempt on the part of the Secretary of Health and Human Services RFK Junior to get rid of the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention We call it the CDC The words and prevention are also there as well but it goes by CDC She was only confirmed in July and he was angry because he wanted her to change the vaccine schedules for the corona virus vaccine and she said she would not do it without consulting other doctors She is a doctor He is not So he asked her to resign When she refused to resign he simply put on social media on X that she was no longer the director Her lawyers stepped in at that point and said she has neither resigned nor been fired And during that and after that there was an exodus of a number of top leaders from the CDC saying that they could not work under RFK Junior because he clearly was an ideologue who was destroying public health and scientific research Now that fight is playing out today RKK Junior is trying to put one of his lackey is in at the head of the CDC but there has been a major walk out at the CDC of people cheering on those doctors and leaders who resigned over this issue If you recall RFK Junior barely got confirmed by the Senate and did so only when the senator from Louisiana a doctor himself Senator Cassidy stepped up to the plate for him and said he had promised not to mess around with vaccine schedules and he had promised not to do any of the things that he is now doing

Well when the director of the CDC was under fire from RFK Junior she called Cassidy and he stepped in to tell RFK Junior to back off which is one of the things that infuriated RFK Junior. It does suggest that there are Republican senators like Cassidy whose reputation is on the line over the RFK Junior nomination and over the RFK Junior confirmation that they are mad about this and they should be because Americans are going to die because of the things that RFK Junior is doing at the CDC and doing in all the different areas of American health. So that is what is going on right there. On another submit it is very clear that Trump is not going to be here for the 2028 election. I mean I could be wrong. Maybe the gods will favor him and you know drop fairy dust on him but he is not going to be functioning in 2028 in such a way that he is going to help the MAGA Republican party. And again the tariffs have not even really kicked in yet. So a lot of people are looking at the Republican party under Trump and they are backing away. I am not saying they are abandoning him but political people and business people are unsure which is going to be the successful place to be in the future. And they are dancing around it right now. You will see this in people being slow to commit troops for example being slow to introduce bills. They are stalling. They are waiting to see what happens to see how long The Trump going to be around and whether he can turn around the fury of MAGA at him that has been building since early July and even since before that over the economy and over now the fact that the administration says it will not release any more information about the Epstein files even though we know that Trump is in them. That is still a real issue for MAGA and it is going to become a bigger issue on September 3rd the first day that Congress is back in session when Democratic Representative Rho Khana a Democrat from California is working with Republican Thomas Massie of Kentucky to interview victims of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell in front of Congress. That is going to put that story very much back in the news and you know that Trump is extremely worried about that. But MAGA is also unhappy about something that Trump dropped very casually the other day in um in a meeting with the South Korean leader in the in the Oval Office. Because Trump no longer has even any kind of a filter you hear a lot about what he is thinking about that is been the true for a while. But he just pops out with stuff now that is often a surprise. If you hear about this stuff and you want to check me for example or check anybody about what they say the way you can do that is you can go to a YouTube channel that offers transcripts and many of them do. You say you want transcripts it is there under the little window and then the transcript appears on the right hand side. If you go to that transcript you can then search the transcript for a keyword. So if you wanted to read the conversation that I am about to tell you about you can go to YouTube you can look for Trump and South Korean leader the video will come up and it goes on for a really long time and normally you would not listen to that because it is hours and you do not have that kind of time. Call up the transcript search for what I am going to tell you here and you can read this exchange yourself. It is actually really quick once you once you start to do it. People keep seem to think I read everything under the sun. I really just know how to do research. And once you know the shortcuts it is a lot less onerous than you think it is. Anyway Trump very casually dropped in that conversation that he wanted to start letting in 600000 Chinese students to the United States of America. That is about twice as many who were studying in the United States before he got into office. And his sort of casual reasoning as clear as it could be made out was the reality that in the United States because we have so dramatically cut funding for higher education our higher education really depends on people from other countries coming to the US for college for university and for graduate school because they pay not always in graduate school but for college and university. And the difference between a college and a university is a college does not have a graduate school and a university does. But both take undergraduates you know the freshman sophomore junior senior. They have to pay full freight. They do not get the rake offs that US citizens do. So foreign scholars essentially underwrite our higher education in the United States. And so he sort of very casually said Yeah we should have these people come in again. Well MAGA if you remember is all about discriminating against foreigners especially foreigners that they do not consider white. So this lit the Maga hair on fire and it got almost no press because it is August and because people I guess just were not paying attention to that particular comment but MAGA sure was. One of the things that astonished me about my last book is that at the

beginning of it Bill Kristol who was a neocon in the George W. Bush administration has become really center left and you would not know it was the same man. Kristol is really out front with progressive policies. And this is again the same thing we saw in the 1850s and the 1890s and the 1930s you know once people recognize that their democracy is in peril and come together what comes out of that is never the same thing that went into it. So the example I always love is Edwin Stanton the Secretary of War for Abraham Lincoln who was a Democrat which meant conservative in the 1860s. He joined the Lincoln cabinet because he believed in the in democracy and he did it out of a sense of duty. And if you looked at him in 1861 you would have thought that at the end of the war he would have been somebody who you know basically sided with the rest of the conservative Democrats coming out of the war. And he was such a fervent Liberal Republican by the end of the war when Lincoln was assassinated because in the 1860s Republicans were Liberal. Edwin Stanton wandered around the streets sobbing to the point that people thought his friends thought he had had a mental break. It is all hands on deck in this particular moment. Trump is deliberately centering the ideology that the Confederacy embraced in the 1850s and the 1860s. We understand how important it is to vote. We understand how important it is for us to be included in in our government. And that is the theme of American democracy itself. So when Trump makes war on black history or the history of women what he is really doing is stripping away democracy in favor of either that oligarchy that the 1850s southern elite enslavers wanted to put in place or of a dictatorship that says your struggles to be included in our country are not part of our story. The only story is that of elite white men like me. So that is the other piece I wanted to talk about today. And the third piece is to me obvious. A lot of you write to me a lot of the time and say What are we going to do now that Trump is attacking our history? And the answer to that seems to me so simple. We learn it ourselves. And I do not mean you suddenly have to disappear in a library and start from scratch. I mean you tell your children the stories of your life and about the people that you care about and the things that they did. And it does not have to be you know storming the beaches of Normandy. It can simply be starting a food bank that made a difference to a community or it can be something like happening to have listened on the radio to a really important speech. I always talk about important speeches. I did that with the JB Pritzker speech the other day even though it was quite late at night. And the reason for that is because my mother had diphtheria when she was a child in the 30s and got stuck at home with nothing to do but read and listen to the radio because her family was quarantined forever. And on the radio she used to listen to the speeches of Hitler. She did not speak a word of German but she could tell that the cadence and the screaming that he was boding something terrible for the world. And as soon as she was old enough she joined the army. Read about history. And I am doing my part over here and I am trying to make it as palatable as possible. But you know talk to your kids about what life was like when you were a kid. They like it. They are interested in that. Remember all the ways in which you can push back against this current administration. ways to build community food banks driving people to and from appointments with doctors all the different ways that you can build community but also making sure that your representatives elected representatives hear from you about the things that you are concerned about. Phone calls really matter. Showing up at town halls really matters. Showing up at schoolboard meetings showing up at town offices all of those things matter. So does being on social media and spreading your stories. Pressure from constituents is forcing somebody like California Governor Gavin Newsome to step up and take a stand. Gavin Newsom did not suddenly wake up one morning and say I have got a great idea. He had slid a little bit too close to the right wing bros and got such push back. he went this direction is getting a ton of positive reinforcement and now is a real figure pushing back at Trump. [Headlines The New York Times August 30 2025](#) Air Pollution from Wood burning [RAWSEP View](#) Stupidity in attending an Air Polluting Event and Doubly stupid in being unaware of own Advanced Pregnancy or being stupidly Careless [From the headline title](#) Strangers Come Together to Deliver Baby Girl at Burning Man Festival The New York Times Alabama Walker County Republicans Federal Money Is a Lifeline for This Republican School District The New York Times Business Aviation Spirit Airlines Files for Bankruptcy for 2nd Time in a Year The New York Times Business Why Three Wealthy

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