



UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

August 5, 2022

Thomas Evers  
Vice President, U.S. Government Affairs  
Abbott Laboratories  
1399 New York Avenue, NW, #200  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Evers

On May 25, 2022, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing that focused on the drastic supply shortage of infant formula and the danger this posed to American families. One of the main topics at the hearing was the role of internal whistleblowers at Abbott Laboratories. It was widely reported that a former employee had filed a whistleblower complaint about health issues at Abbott's plant in Sturgis, Michigan long before Abbott recalled its Similac baby formula and shut down that plant.<sup>1</sup>

Abbott's witness at the hearing, Christopher Calamari, a senior vice president, was asked to quantify the number of internal complaints that Abbott's employees made about safety and compliance issues. Mr. Calamari did not know the exact number during the hearing but promised that he would subsequently provide that number. After two months, on July 26, 2022, Abbott finally provided an answer to this important question, which is attached here to this letter. Unfortunately, Abbott failed to provide a number and instead outlined "multiple pathways for reporting concerns." Abbott explained that because it had several processes available for employees to report these issues that it could not quantify the total number of complaints.

For a company that proclaims to take "product safety and compliance issues very seriously" it is extremely concerning and frankly surprising that it remains at best unable or worse unwilling to account for the number of times employees have issued internal complaints about products that millions of infants consume. It is important for elected officials to fully understand just how many internal complaints and potential warnings Abbott had before it finally took action.

---

<sup>1</sup> Katherine Dilliger, *Former Employer Filed Whistleblower Complaint About Abbott's Sturgis Facility Eight Months Before Previously Known*, CNN (June 9, 2022, updated 8:14 AM), <https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/08/health/abbott-whistleblower-complaints/index.html>.

I ask that Abbott immediately provide a detailed list with the number of internal complaints received about safety since January 1, 2021. I expect Abbott to account for each type of complaint it described in its letter. Please provide an answer in writing no later than August 19, 2022.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lori Trahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lori" being more prominent and the last name "Trahan" following in a similar style.

Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress