

Lawmakers seeking Justice Dept. probe of pharmacy

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(AP)—U.S. legislators want the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate whether the company linked to a nationwide meningitis outbreak violated federal laws or regulations.

Rep. Edward Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat, told the department in a letter that New England Compounding Center may have tried to skirt federal policy on the sale and distribution of controlled substances.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Connecticut Democrat, also has asked the Justice Department to launch a [criminal probe](#) into the outbreak, which is linked to steroid shots distributed by NECC.

A spokesman for Framingham, Mass.-based NECC had no comment on Markey's letter but says the company is cooperating in ongoing probes by other agencies.

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) says 233 illnesses, including 15 deaths, in 15 states are linked to the outbreak.

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