



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Markup Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)

Markup of Resolutions of Inquiry H.Res. 113 & H.Res. 114

February 26, 2025

Today's markup is happening during unprecedented times. Voters asked Republicans to lower the high cost of living and prioritize safety and security. Instead, Republicans are doing **nothing** to address the affordability crisis, even though they control every branch of government. Inflation is up. Housing prices are up. And the cost of eggs is through the roof, if you can even find any to buy.

Meanwhile, there's nothing but **chaos and nonsense** coming from the White House. Trump is trying to distract from his failed policies by dashing off useless Executive Orders that do nothing to address the issues Americans care about most. No help at all for people trying to put food on the table, make their rent, or pay their light bill.

Americans are asking — is Trump even in charge of his own administration? People are saying it seems like Elon Musk is running the country, and they may be right. Trump's unelected South African co-president is allegedly a Federal employee. But he spends his time at political events rambling incoherently, waving a chainsaw around for the cameras, and giving the Nazi salute to his right-wing extremist friends. And today, evidently, he is going to join the first Cabinet meeting of the new administration.

That's what he's up to when he's not wasting taxpayer money by demanding that Federal employees — who have actual jobs to do — send him pointless emails, only to have Trump's own Cabinet secretaries tell the employees not to. **Talk about inefficiency in government!** Trump's administration is fighting among itself rather than doing the work of the people.

Unfortunately, Congressional Republicans are no better. Yesterday their leadership brought to the House floor a budget scheme that hurts everyday Americans, who are already struggling, **in order to give \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts for billionaires and deep-pocketed corporations.** I guess that's what happens when you put an out-of-touch, out-of-control billionaire in charge of the country.

Americans also want their government to prioritize safety and security, but instead **Republicans are making us less safe.**

Republicans are cutting our military at the same time the White House is cozying up to adversaries like China and Russia. **That makes America less safe.**

Republicans are giving Elon Musk and his DOGE lackeys access to secure government systems that store Americans' most sensitive data. **That makes America less safe.**

Republicans are firing Federal workers who help secure our government networks, prevent plane crashes, protect our nuclear stockpiles, and respond to natural disasters. Many of those fired are veterans who served this great country honorably. **That makes America less safe.**

Meanwhile, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem recently said that DOGE should take a “chainsaw” to DHS — the Department she’s supposed to be running — the Department that was stood up in the wake of 9/11 to protect against terrorist attacks. And she wants to take a chainsaw to it. ***Again, that makes America less safe. None of this is what voters asked for.***

So, let’s take a look at the Trump-Musk administration’s first month in office. Protecting classified systems? F. Preventing plane crashes? F. Responding to disasters? F. Meanwhile, the Trump-Musk administration has done an A-plus job dismantling homeland security, advancing Chinese interests, and parroting Russian dictator Vladimir Putin’s propaganda.

It’s not surprising then that Republican Members of Congress are getting an earful from their constituents at town halls around the country, even in overwhelmingly red congressional districts. Americans are rightfully upset that Republicans are failing to keep their campaign promises and have broken the people’s trust on the issues they care most about.

Secretary Noem herself recently said, and I quote, “we can’t trust our government anymore.” On that, I couldn’t agree more with the Secretary. The Trump administration is the government, and it cannot be trusted.

There’s no transparency about what Musk’s DOGE gang is doing, press is being shut out of the White House, and the administration continues to refuse to comply with basic congressional oversight about critical security matters.

That’s why I introduced two resolutions of inquiry the Committee will be considering today. These resolutions require DHS to provide information about Trump administration actions that put the Department’s information systems at risk, jeopardize its workforce, and freeze homeland security grant funding. I hope my Republican colleagues will join Democrats in upholding our constitutional oversight responsibilities by supporting these resolutions.

Regarding H.R. 1000, the Cyber PIVOTT Act offered by the Chairman today, I am not able to support the bill. There is strong support on the Democratic side for expanding the cyber workforce and making community college more accessible for students. However, a bill that conditions scholarships on government service while the Trump administration is firing existing cyber employees and freezing hiring of new employees is a bait-and switch at best. Democrats don’t want to trick community college students in need into thinking there will be a Federal cyber job waiting for them after graduation, and that’s what this bill amounts to with Trump in office.

Finally, with respect to the Committee’s Authorization and Oversight Plan, there is room for improvement. Democrats will offer amendments to the plan to strengthen key areas like combating gun trafficking and racially, ethnically, and religiously motivated violent extremism. These thoughtful amendments deserve our support.

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