

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 2, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
Director of National Intelligence
McLean, VA 22102

Dear Secretary Noem and Director Gabbard:

We understand from public reporting that the Administration may be planning to severely cut the workforce of the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A), which has functioned as the Department's principal intelligence community element for over two decades.¹ As the Ranking Members of the homeland security and intelligence committees, we urge you not to take this drastic and unilateral step and instead to consult with Congress about alternative ways to make I&A as effective and efficient as possible. I&A collects, analyzes, and disseminates intelligence to counter terrorists, cartels, and nation-state adversaries and to enhance border security. Hollowing out the office risks leaving the homeland dangerously exposed to these threats, especially at a time when the FBI's budget is being substantially reduced.

As you know, Congress created I&A to fill a critical homeland security gap by delivering intelligence to state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners. As the late Senator Joseph Lieberman explained upon passage of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the U.S. government needed "a new intelligence division focused on the threats to our homeland [and] equipped to truly connect the intelligence and law enforcement dots from Federal, State, and local agencies, from human and signals intelligence, from closed and open sources [and] from law enforcement and foreign sources. . . . These dots were not connected before September 11. We lived to experience the disastrous consequences of that failure."²

In addition to the counterterrorism mission, I&A works alongside intelligence community elements and DHS components to advance the counternarcotics mission and the border security mission—efforts you have prioritized and that enjoy bipartisan support in Congress. Moreover, by statute, the Undersecretary of I&A also serves as the Chief Intelligence Officer of the entire Department, coordinating the intelligence efforts of DHS components to create a clear and comprehensive picture of homeland threats to inform decisionmakers.

Radically reducing I&A's workforce at headquarters or in the field would create dangerous and unnecessary security gaps and could again leave us in the dark about the threats that lie ahead. Four of the nation's leading law enforcement associations stated in a letter to you, Secretary Noem, that if I&A's capabilities were changed:

¹ "DHS plans to shed most of its intel office workforce," Nextgov/FCW (July 1, 2025), <https://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2025/07/dhs-plans-shed-most-its-intel-office-workforce/406466/?oref=ng-home-top-story>.

² Congressional Record Senate Articles, Homeland Security Act of 2002, S8156, (September 4, 2002), <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/2002/09/04/senate-section/article/S8155-2>.

“vital intelligence will fail to reach the frontline officers and investigators tasked with detecting and disrupting threats—creating dangerous blind spots in our homeland security network...Weakening I&A would undermine our ability to detect and prevent threats before they occur.”³

We agree. We also concur with the sentiments expressed in a letter sent today by the Anti-Defamation League, the Secure Community Network, and the American Jewish Committee. These organizations state:

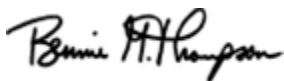
“[W]e are deeply concerned that any wholesale changes to the operations of I&A will have an adverse effect on countering antisemitism and ensuring the safety of the Jewish community in the United States. . . . As Jewish organizations committed to working with our law enforcement partners and protecting our community from rising threats, we rely on I&A to provide accurate and timely updates on behalf of the intelligence community to inform efforts for our community’s safety and security.”

At a time when DHS is rightly warning about an elevated threat environment from terrorists and cartels, we should be focused on plugging security gaps rather than senselessly creating new ones.

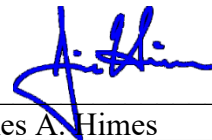
We are fully aware that I&A has faced challenges in the past, and we have enacted legislation to address those challenges. We also know that I&A has made significant progress in recent years. We stand ready to work with you to sustain and build on that progress in a way that strengthens I&A’s ability to protect the homeland from terrorists, cartels, foreign spies, and others who seek to do us harm.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Homeland Security



James A. Himes
Ranking Member
House Permanent Select
Committee on Intelligence



Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs

³ Letter from the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies, Major Cities Chiefs Association, Major County Sheriffs of America, and National Fusion Center Association to Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem (June 18, 2025).

cc: The Honorable Mark E. Green
Chairman
House Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Eric “Rick” Crawford
Chairman
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs