



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hearing Statement of Oversight, Investigations & Accountability Subcommittee Ranking Member Shri Thanedar (D-MI)

“Eliminating Security, Oversight, and Accountability: The Homegrown Threat Posed by Musk's DOGE”

March 11, 2025

Waste, fraud, and abuse are not new. That’s why Congress established legitimate entities decades ago to help identify and root it out.

Those experienced government watchdogs are now being viciously attacked by President Trump and Co-President Musk. During his first week in office, Trump unlawfully fired 17 inspectors general (IG) who defend against corruption and mismanagement in government. Trump falsely claimed “[i]t’s a very common thing to do” and pretended not to know the IGs he purged despite appointing many of them.

Those IGs saved taxpayers \$93 billion in fiscal year 2023 alone—a \$26 return on every dollar spent. Such savings are only possible when IGs are truly independent from the administration they investigate.

Such independence is also crucial for the Office of Special Counsel (OSC), which provides a safe place for government employees to disclose wrongdoing. So, it was no surprise when Trump unlawfully fired the head of OSC last month without cause. Trump is purposefully gutting the watchdogs who can help check presidential power and replacing them with a dangerous knock-off.

Musk’s so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has taken a chainsaw to the Federal government, creating chaos and wreaking havoc. DOGE has accessed highly sensitive systems and information in a manner that makes it easier for our adversaries—China and Russia—to exploit.

DOGE has purged the government of dedicated civil servants, including thousands of national security employees who help collect intelligence and protect our country from terrorist attacks. DOGE has canceled contracts without regard to their purpose, including office leases that enable the Government Accountability Office, Congresses’ own watchdog, to conduct reviews of national security programs.

Musk’s DOGE is a national security nightmare that is eroding the Federal government’s ability to function effectively and efficiently while the price of eggs skyrockets. Let’s not forget DOGE’s disappearing receipts. Musk’s financial savings claims are riddled with math errors, “accidentally cancelled” contracts, and contracts canceled by the Biden administration.

If this administration was serious about fighting waste, fraud, and abuse, it would be supporting the legitimate, independent agencies that exist for that sole purpose. It’s time to end the failed DOGE experiment and restore power to the entities Congress entrusted to root out waste, fraud, and abuse.

#

[Media contact](#)