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BENNIE G. THOMPSON, MISSISSIPPI
RANKING MEMBER

One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2025

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
Government Accountability Office
441 G St. NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro,

We write to request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) review the Department of Government Efficiency's (DOGE) actions concerning the Department of Homeland Security (DHS or Department). Since hijacking the U.S. Digital Service to establish DOGE, Elon Musk's unqualified staff have fanned out across the Federal government. They have embedded themselves within departments and agencies, including DHS, to seize sensitive data, purge civil servants, and gut programs with no regard to the critical services they provide everyday Americans.

We are therefore requesting that GAO:

Workforce Purge
- Assess the legality of any guidance provided to DHS by DOGE, or guidance influence by DOGE, on:
    o how to terminate DHS probationary employees,
    o which DHS probationary employees to terminate,
    o how to carry out reductions in force, and
    o which DHS employees to subject to reductions in force.
- Identify the number of employees terminated at DHS, broken out by component and office, and the resulting impact on the Department's ability to conduct its mission.
- Identify the number of individuals hired using special hiring authorities, such as Cyber Talent Management System, who were terminated after January 20, 2025.
- Determine how many DHS employees, by component and office, accepted DOGE's Fork in the Road offer and the impact on the Department's ability to conduct its mission.
- Identify any administrative challenges DHS experienced when executing the Fork in the Road offer, including terminating individuals who had already accepted the offer.

System Access and Vulnerabilities
- Identify which DHS information systems DOGE accessed and assess the extent to which that access complied with controls, including relevant training, security management, access controls, and segregation of duties.
- Identify any data exfiltrated from DHS information systems to non-DHS information systems, determine the purpose for which the data were exfiltrated, and assess whether DOGE utilized appropriate controls to secure the data.
- Determine the extent to which DOGE employees accessing DHS systems were vetted, including through relevant suitability and security investigations.
- Identify any relevant training DOGE employees accessing DHS systems received, the organization or agency that provided such training, and the date or dates such training was provided.
- Identify how many DHS employees responded to DOGE's request that employees send a weekly email describing their activities and determine who within DHS reviewed any relevant responses, and whether such responses were accessible or made available to individuals outside DHS.
- Determine whether the weekly description emails resulted in national security vulnerabilities.

Cancelled Contracts, Agreements, and Grants
- Identify which DHS contracts and agreements DOGE canceled and the rationale for the cancelations.
- Determine whether DOGE's cancelations of contracts and agreements resulted in violations of appropriations law and the impact of the cancelations on DHS's mission.
- Assess the extent to which DOGE has withheld, stalled, or stopped DHS grant funding from going to stakeholders, including States, locals, territories, tribes, first responders, houses of worship, and other nonprofit organizations.
- Determine the extent to which DOGE's actions to withhold, stall, or stop Congressionally mandated DHS grant funding may be a violation of appropriations law.
- Identify the extent to which DOGE employees were vetted or had clearances prior to accessing sensitive and classified information related to DHS preparedness grant funding.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Ranking Member

J. LUIS CORREA
Ranking Member Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Border Security and
Enforcement

SETH MAGAZINER
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and
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