

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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March 10, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy:

I am writing concerning the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Office of Personnel Management (OPM) memorandum dated February 26, 2025, regarding guidance on agency reductions in force (RIF) and reorganization plans.¹

The actions outlined in this memo will further enable the Administration's political purge of dedicated civil servants from federal agencies. The Administration has already engaged in illegal RIFs,² deep funding cuts that endanger many of our government's life-saving missions,³ and the unlawful wholesale dismantlement of congressionally authorized federal agencies.⁴ This memo seeks to accelerate and expand these actions across the government.

¹ Memorandum from Russell T. Vought, Director, Office of Management and Budget and Charles Ezell, Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management to Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies (Feb. 26, 2025) (online at www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/latest-memos/guidance-on-agency-rif-and-reorganization-plans-requested-by-implementing-the-president-s-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative.pdf).

² *Judge blocks Trump administration's mass firings of federal workers*, Washington Post (Feb. 27, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/02/27/judge-probationary-federal-employee-firings-lawsuit/) and *Here's Where Trump's Government Layoffs Are Targeted—As Veterans Affairs Reportedly Plans Thousands of Cuts*, Forbes (Mar. 5, 2025) (online at www.forbes.com/sites/saradorn/2025/03/05/heres-where-trumps-government-layoffs-are-targeted-as-veterans-affairs-reportedly-plans-thousands-of-cuts/).

³ See, for example, *USAID's extremely uncertain future risks global aid efforts, especially in Ukraine*, CNN (Feb. 27, 2025) (online at www.cnn.com/2025/02/27/politics/usaid-government-spending-global-aid-dg/index.html).

⁴ See, for example, *Trump administration orders consumer protection agency to stop work, closes building*, Associated Press (Feb. 9, 2025) (online at <https://apnews.com/article/trump-consumer-protection-cease-1b93c60a773b6b5ee629e769ae6850e9>) and *Education Dept looks to reassign work to other agencies ahead of Trump EO 'eliminating' it*, Federal News Network (Mar. 4, 2025) (online at <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/agency-oversight/2025/03/education-dept-looks-to-reassign-work-to-other-agencies-ahead-of-trump-eo-eliminating-it/>).

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I request that you submit to the Committee any materials your agency develops responsive to the February 26 memo. Please provide these materials to the Committee concurrent with submission to OMB and/or OPM.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. The Committee has legislative jurisdiction over the “federal civil service, including intergovernmental personnel; and the status of officers and employees of the United States, including their compensation, classification, and retirement.” The information requested in this letter will inform potential legislative reforms to the federal civil service.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman