

BREAKING GOVERNMENT:

How DOGE and Trump Cost Taxpayers,
Federal Workers, and Public Services

INTERIM STAFF ANALYSIS

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following Elon Musk's support for Donald Trump's 2024 presidential campaign, President Trump handed the U.S. government over to the world's richest man through the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE. DOGE was nothing short of a catastrophe. It failed to achieve its stated goals and wreaked havoc across the federal government, weakening or terminating programs and services that the American people rely on and endangering privacy and public safety while President Trump and his billionaire friends line their own pockets. This interim staff analysis presents a preliminary account of DOGE's costly and destructive actions during the first 13 months of President Trump's second Administration, including:

- **Decimation and Demoralization of the Federal Workforce.** DOGE coordinated with other executive branch agencies to purge the expert federal workforce and chill the nonpartisan civil servants that are left to serve the public.
- **Unlawful Attacks on Statutory Programs.** The Trump Administration and DOGE have unlawfully attempted to abolish statutory programs and agencies.
- **Delay, Degradation, and Elimination of Programs and Services for Americans.** From delays in getting new medications to patients, to diminished access to Social Security services and food safety inspections, to greater wildfire risks, to a global instability, the harms DOGE has imposed on the everyday lives of Americans are vast, varied, and still unfolding.
- **Reckless Handling of Americans' Data.** DOGE illegally deployed systems and forcefully accessed data across federal agencies in clear violation of federal privacy and cybersecurity laws, putting Americans' data and civil liberties at risk.
- **Dismantling of Safeguards Against Waste, Fraud, Abuse, and Corruption.** The Trump Administration has weakened or eliminated key offices, fired employees, and invalidated or removed rules and regulations dedicated to protecting the public interest; and
- **Lying to the American Public.** DOGE and its defenders have been caught providing false claims in court and to the American people. Additionally, DOGE claims that it terminated more than 13,440 contracts, 264 leases, and 15,887 grants across the federal government. However, DOGE's estimated "savings" have been frequently found to be wildly inaccurate and inconsistent. The high costs of DOGE unequivocally erase any verified savings it can claim, and the full extent of its lies are still coming into focus. DOGE personnel also violated security protocols when accessing highly sensitive Social Security Administration data and potentially deceived agency leaders and federal courts to avoid disclosing those violations.

The Trump Administration has funneled an estimated \$81 million to fund DOGE employees, resources, and activities with virtually no transparency or mechanisms of

accountability. This staff analysis resulted in the following preliminary findings regarding the American people's return on this egregiously mishandled investment:

- 1. Through DOGE alone, President Trump has cost the American people billions of dollars in damage and an intangible amount of waste and suffering.**
- 2. President Trump used DOGE as a smokescreen to make billionaires richer at the expense of hardworking Americans.**
- 3. America needs serious oversight and government reform that is by, of, and for the American people—not reckless and corrupt billionaires.**

II. BACKGROUND

After the 2024 presidential election, then-President-elect Trump and entrepreneurs Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy began rolling out an initiative during the presidential transition period: the Department of Government Efficiency. The initiative was commonly referred to as “DOGE,” a term that originated as an internet meme of a Shiba Inu dog’s imagined internal monologue and later became a cryptocurrency named “Dogecoin” created as a joke in 2013.¹

On the first day of his second term, President Trump formalized DOGE by establishing the Department of Government Efficiency (U.S. DOGE Service or DOGE), renaming and reorganizing the former United States Digital Service (USDS) via executive order.² Originally established in 2014, USDS was conceived as a team of digital experts assembled to work in collaboration with other federal agencies to, for example, make government websites more user-friendly and to upgrade the government’s technology infrastructure.³ While the order ostensibly transformed USDS into DOGE to modernize “federal technology and software to maximize governmental efficiency and productivity,” the actual activities undertaken by DOGE strayed dramatically from this stated mission.⁴ DOGE instead pursued a comprehensive deregulatory agenda designed to empower big corporations and cut trillions of dollars from federal programs that protect Americans’ health and security.⁵

In February 2025, President Trump issued three executive orders requiring federal agencies to coordinate with DOGE personnel on actions amounting to DOGE control over federal spending and agency missions. These orders facilitated a massive escalation of DOGE’s involvement in activities, including agency hiring and firing, review and justification of all federal spending, and rollback of regulatory safeguards.⁶ In the months that followed, the Trump Administration transformed USDS from what President Barack Obama once described as a

¹ *What is “Doge”?* Explaining The Meme and Cryptocurrency After Elon Musk’s Appointment to D.O.G.E., USA Today (Nov. 13, 2024) (online at www.usatoday.com/story/money/2024/11/13/what-is-doge-elon-musk/76255384007/).

² Exec. Order No. 14158, 90 Fed. Reg. 8441 (Jan. 20, 2025).

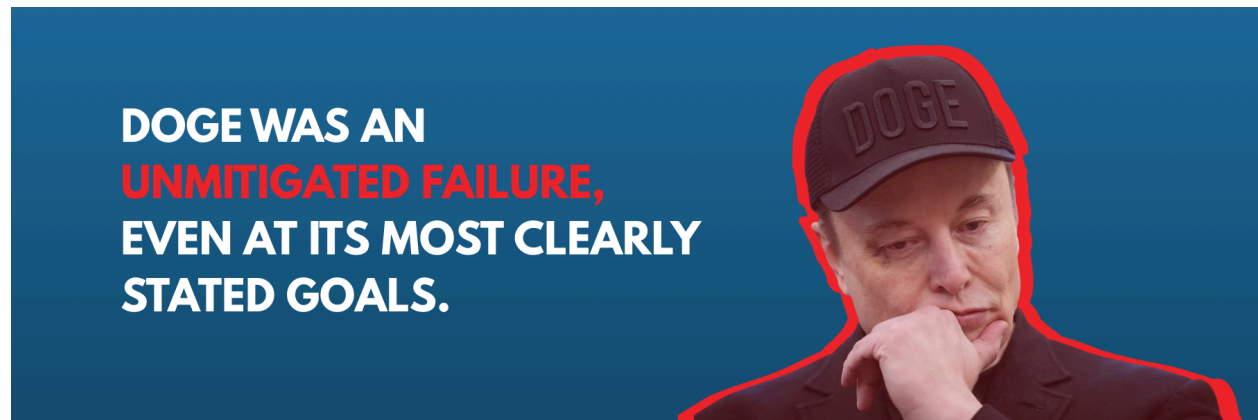
³ The White House, *FACT SHEET: Improving and Simplifying Digital Services* (online at <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2014/08/11/fact-sheet-improving-and-simplifying-digital-services>) (Aug. 11, 2014).

⁴ *See* Exec. Order No. 14158, 90 Fed. Reg. 8441 (Jan. 20, 2025); The White House, *FACT SHEET: Improving and Simplifying Digital Services* (Aug. 11, 2014) (online at <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2014/08/11/fact-sheet-improving-and-simplifying-digital-services>).

⁵ *Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy: The DOGE Plan to Reform Government*, Wall Street Journal (Nov. 20, 2024) (online at www.wsj.com/opinion/musk-and-ramaswamy-the-doge-plan-to-reform-government-supreme-court-guidance-end-executive-power-grab-fa51c020).

⁶ *See* Exec. Order No. 14210, 90 Fed. Reg. 9669 (Feb. 11, 2025); Exec. Order No. 14219, 90 Fed. Reg. 10583 (Feb. 19, 2025); Exec. Order No. 14222, 90 Fed. Reg. 11095 (Feb. 26, 2025).

“world-class technology office inside of the government” to a tool for Elon Musk and a host of unaccountable, generally amateurish Musk proteges to enact their agenda.



Ultimately, DOGE’s actions have undermined the vital project of creating more effective, modern government infrastructure.⁷ By the end of February 2025, many USDS employees who had been working to build more efficient and effective government systems had been fired.⁸ As Jennifer Pahlka, former U.S. Chief Technology Officer and co-founder of USDS, stated, “If they want a more efficient government, they just fired some of the people most skilled to get them there.”⁹ One of those fired USDS employees was responsible for maintaining the security of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) website that connects veterans with their benefits and medical records. That employee stated:

It’s inevitable that the cybersecurity practice within VA.gov is going to suffer and that they are going to fall behind on what they are required to do in order to keep cybersecurity on VA.gov where it needs to be [...] and the result of that is it’s going to get worse, and eventually it will get bad enough that there will be an incident.¹⁰

⁷ *Civic Tech Leaders Worry DOGE is “Tarnishing” Its Tools to Improve Government*, NextGov/FCW (June 11, 2025) (online at www.nextgov.com/digital-government/2025/06/civic-tech-leaders-worry-doge-tarnishing-its-tools-improve-government/405985/).

⁸ *Dozens of Employees at U.S. DOGE Service Dismissed*, NextGov/FCW (Feb. 16, 2025) (online at www.nextgov.com/people/2025/02/dozens-employees-us-doge-service-dismissed/403053/).

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *DOGE’s USDS Purge Included The Guy Who Keeps Veterans’ Data Safe Online*, Wired (Feb. 21, 2025) (online at www.wired.com/story/doge-usds-purge-veterans-affairs-site-cybersecurity/).

The American people want a federal government that is more effective and less wasteful, transparent and accountable, competent and nonpartisan.¹¹ But while spinning a public image that DOGE was the vehicle to deliver these results, President Trump and Elon Musk instead used DOGE as a mechanism to evade the law, enrich the wealthy, escape accountability, and realize the darkest fantasies of anti-government elites.¹²

Recent reporting about the status of DOGE as a formal entity has been conflicting, with some reports that DOGE has been disbanded and others—including a social media post by Office of Personnel Management Director Scott Kupor—that DOGE has burrowed into executive branch agencies themselves rather than operating as a centralized entity.¹³ The U.S. DOGE Service account on X (Elon Musk’s social media platform) posted in response that the reporting was “typical media misinformation,” and DOGE is “still partnering with agencies[.]”¹⁴ Elon Musk personally admitted that DOGE had fallen short of his goals and expressed regret for his time away from his private sector activities.¹⁵

¹¹ Cornell Brooks Public Policy, *What Americans Really Mean By “Good Government”* (online at <https://publicpolicy.cornell.edu/masters-blog/what-americans-really-mean-by-good-government/#:~:text=Ultimately%2C%20Americans%20seem%20to%20define,government%20is%20responsive%20and%20relevant>) (Nov. 23, 2025).

¹² See, e.g., *Elon Musk Wants to Save Western Civilization from Empathy*, CNN (Mar. 5, 2025) (online at www.cnn.com/2025/03/05/politics/elon-musk-rogan-interview-empathy-doge); *The Rise of Stephen Miller, The Architect of Trump’s Hardline Immigration Policy*, The Guardian (June 15, 2025) (online at www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jun/15/trump-immigration-stephen-miller-influence); *Inside Stephen Miller’s Reign of Terror*, Rolling Stone (Sept. 14, 2025) (online at www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-features/stephen-miller-trump-terror-ice-immigration-military-1235426023/); *Russ Vought Wanted Feds “In Trauma.” It’s Happening.*, Politico (Oct. 16, 2025) (online at <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2025/10/16/russ-vought-wanted-feds-in-trauma-its-happening-00611222>).

¹³ See *Exclusive: DOGE “Doesn’t Exist” with Eight Months Left on Its Charter*, Reuters (Nov. 23, 2025) (online at www.reuters.com/world/us/doge-doesnt-exist-with-eight-months-left-its-charter-2025-11-23/); *DOGE Isn’t Dead. Here’s What Its Operatives Are Doing Now*, WIRED (Dec. 2, 2025) (online at www.wired.com/story/what-is-doge-doing-now/); Director Scott Kupor (@skupor), X (Nov. 23, 2025) (online at <https://x.com/skupor/status/1992676347194523912>).

¹⁴ U.S. DOGE Service (@USDS), X (Nov. 23, 2025) (online at <https://x.com/USDS/status/1992743791942627426>).

¹⁵ *Elon Musk Suggests He Wouldn’t Do DOGE Over Again*, CBS News (Dec. 10, 2025) (online at www.cbsnews.com/news/elon-musk-suggests-he-wouldnt-do-doge-over-again/).

A. Willfully Opaque Operational Structure

In his January 20, 2025, executive order, President Trump established DOGE as a temporary organization that would dissolve on July 4, 2026. The order established that the DOGE Administrator report to the White House Chief of Staff. It also directed that a “DOGE team” be established within each executive branch agency consisting of at least 4 employees hired or assigned within 30 days of the order to “advise” agency heads on implementing the President’s DOGE agenda.¹⁶

Though the order appeared to establish some structure for DOGE, its operational structure and role in Trump Administration actions and decision-making have been notoriously sprawling, opaque, and subject to multiple lawsuits. DOGE’s operations and organization have been deliberately obscured in a likely attempt to shield DOGE and Elon Musk from legal and political accountability. For example, despite outward appearances, extensive reporting, and statements by President Trump and Elon Musk himself that Mr. Musk was directing DOGE activities, White House officials insisted that Mr. Musk “is not an employee of [DOGE]” nor “the U.S. DOGE Service Administrator.”¹⁷

Although the Administration provided conflicting information on the leadership of DOGE, it initially refused to reveal who it claimed to actually be in that role.¹⁸ During a February 2025 hearing in a lawsuit against Department of the Treasury (Treasury) Secretary Scott Bessent regarding DOGE access to Treasury data, the Justice Department attorney representing the government was unable to answer questions about the structure and leadership of DOGE and the role of Elon Musk.¹⁹ In late February 2025, when pressed by a federal judge, the White House finally identified Amy Gleason, a former member of USDS with expertise in health care technology, as the Administrator of DOGE. She was reportedly surprised by the public announcement of her role while on vacation in Mexico, and her role in directing DOGE staff activities remains dubious.²⁰

¹⁶ Exec. Order No. 14158, 90 Fed. Reg. 8441 (Jan. 20, 2025).

¹⁷ Declaration of Joshua Fisher (Feb. 18, 2025), *State of New Mexico et al. v. Elon Musk, in his official capacity, et al.* (No. 1:25 CV 00429) (online at <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.277463/gov.uscourts.dcd.277463.24.1.pdf>).

¹⁸ See The White House, *Remarks by President Trump in Joint Address to Congress* (online at www.whitehouse.gov/remarks/2025/03/remarks-by-president-trump-in-joint-address-to-congress/) (Mar. 4, 2025); *WATCH: White House Refuses to “Reveal” DOGE Administrator During Briefing*, PBS (Feb. 25, 2025) (online at www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/watch-white-house-refuses-to-reveal-doge-administrator-during-briefing).

¹⁹ *Who is Running The U.S. DOGE Service?*, Lawfare (Feb. 25, 2025) (online at www.lawfaremedia.org/article/who-is-running-the-u.s.-doge-service).

²⁰ *Who’s Running the DOGE Wrecking Machine: The World’s Richest Man or a Little-Known Bureaucrat?*, ProPublica (Mar. 14, 2025) (online at www.propublica.org/article/doge-leadership-elon-musk-amy-gleason-trump-ethics-conflict-of-interest).

DOGE staffing—and the extent to which actions are being carried out by DOGE staff embedded at each agency versus agency personnel—has also been largely concealed from scrutiny. For instance, as reported by Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee Minority staff, agencies refused to answer Committee staff questions about what activities DOGE teams were engaged in or their access to agency data and systems, and in some cases refused to acknowledge the existence of the agency DOGE team at all.²¹ Few DOGE staff for whom records are available have government experience and most have backgrounds in engineering, law, finance, human resources, and real estate. Many DOGE staff are associates or employees of technology firms owned and run by Mr. Musk.²² This raises the probability of conflicts of interest as staff with financial interests in Musk’s companies gain access to business-sensitive information on government requirements and other companies. It also presents the possibility that Musk and his companies could gain access to federal systems and data for their own purposes, raising privacy and corruption concerns.

Teams of DOGE employees have been embedded at nearly every executive branch agency, and in some cases have established or sought to establish memoranda of understanding outlining access to data and goals regarding reductions in force and changes to operations.²³ The full scope of their respective activities has been withheld from the public and from oversight bodies.²⁴

B. Evading Oversight and Accountability

The executive order establishing DOGE requires the Administrator of DOGE to report to the White House Chief of Staff, moving DOGE from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), where USDS was previously housed, to the White House Office.²⁵

²¹ Democratic Staff, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, *Unchecked and Unaccountable: How DOGE Jeopardizes Americans’ Data Without Regard for Law And Congress* (Sept. 2025) (online at www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/DOGE_REPORT_FINAL_7.pdf).

²² *The People Carrying Out Musk’s Plans at DOGE*, New York Times (updated June. 16, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/02/27/us/politics/doge-staff-list.html).

²³ See *The People Carrying Out Musk’s Plans at DOGE*, New York Times (Feb. 27, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/02/27/us/politics/doge-staff-list.html); Letter from Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, U.S. Postal Service, to Congressional Leaders (Mar. 13, 2025) (online at www.documentcloud.org/documents/25560998-pmg-dejoy-to-congressionalleaders-3132025/); *Musk’s DOGE Seeks Access to Personal Taxpayer Data, Raising Alarms at IRS*, Washington Post (Feb. 16, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/02/16/doge-irs-access-taxpayer-data/); *Musk Says Government Workers Must Detail Their Workweek or Lose Their Jobs*, New York Times (Feb. 22, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/02/22/us/politics/elon-musk-email-federal-employees.html).

²⁴ Letter from Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, U.S. Postal Service, to Congressional Leaders (Mar. 13, 2025) (online at www.documentcloud.org/documents/25560998-pmg-dejoy-to-congressionalleaders-3132025/).

²⁵ See Exec. Order No. 14158, 90 Fed. Reg. 8441 (Jan. 20, 2025); The White House, *Office of Management and Budget Announces Mina Hsiang as New Administrator of the United States Digital Service* (Sept. 2, 2021) (online at <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/omb/briefing-room/2021/09/02/office-of-management-and-budget-announces-mina-hsiang-as-new-administrator-of-the-united-states-digital-service/>).

Moving DOGE to the White House Office—which is subject to fewer regulatory and statutory requirements—was an attempt to evade oversight of DOGE activities by Congress, the Judiciary, and the American public.²⁶

For example, the Trump Administration has argued that DOGE’s position within the White House means that communications and documents it develops are protected as “Presidential communications” or “deliberative process” and are therefore exempt from Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) requirements, as well as requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act.²⁷ DOGE has refused to comply with requests under FOIA by claiming that it is not an “agency” subject to FOIA, an argument rejected by a district court but still pending appeal.²⁸ As a result, members of the public may have little recourse to demand information through FOIA or litigate to address unlawful DOGE actions.

The Federal Records Act subjects federal agencies to certain record preservation requirements, and FOIA requires federal agencies to respond to requests from the public for access to federal documents and information.²⁹ The Trump Administration has argued that DOGE is instead subject to the more limited Presidential Records Act, which protects records from public access through FOIA, and may limit Congressional access, for up to twelve years after the end of an Administration.³⁰ However, a unit of the Executive Office of the President is subject to FOIA if the unit “wielded substantial authority independently of the President.”³¹

²⁶ See *The People Carrying Out Musk’s Plans at DOGE*, New York Times (Feb. 27, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/02/27/us/politics/doge-staff-list.html); Project on Government Oversight, *What’s Wrong with DOGE? Its Structure, for One* (online at www.pogo.org/analysis/whats-wrong-with-doge-its-structure-for-one) (Apr. 2, 2025).

²⁷ See, e.g., Congressional Research Service, *A Brief Overview of Rulemaking and Judicial Review* (Mar. 27, 2017) (R41546) (online at www.congress.gov/crs-product/R41546); Congressional Research Service, *The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): A Legal Review* (June 27, 2024) (R46238) (online at www.congress.gov/crs-product/R46238).

²⁸ See Memorandum Opinion, *Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington v. U.S. DOGE Service* (No. 25 CV 511) (Mar. 10, 2025); *U.S. Doge Service, et al. v. Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington*, No. 25-5130, (June 6, 2025) (Order Granting Stay Application).

²⁹ 44 U.S.C. 31; 5 U.S. Code § 552.

³⁰ See, e.g., Project on Government Oversight, *What’s Wrong with DOGE? Its Structure, for One* (online at www.pogo.org/analysis/whats-wrong-with-doge-its-structure-for-one) (Apr. 2, 2025); *Secrecy is Becoming a Defining Trait of Elon Musk’s DOGE*, NBC News (Feb. 7, 2025) (online at www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/secrecy-becoming-defining-characteristic-elon-musk-doge-rcna190966); National Archives, *Presidential Records Act (PRA) of 1978* (online at www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries/laws/1978-act.html) (Jan. 11, 2023). Importantly, citing to the Presidential Records Act is not a valid basis to withhold documents from Congress.

³¹ Memorandum Opinion, *Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington v. U.S. DOGE Service* (No. 25 CV 511) (Mar. 10, 2025).

Since DOGE has wielded such authority, it should unequivocally be subject to the Federal Records Act and FOIA.

In an absurd attempt to create the illusion of transparency, DOGE operates a bare-bones website providing links to DOGE posts on X and a “Wall of Receipts” representing purported savings, but no information on its leadership, authorities, plans, or goals.³²

Reporting indicates that DOGE improperly quantified purported savings and, due to the hasty rollout of the website, was constantly altering or deleting altogether estimated savings for taxpayers.³³

To date, DOGE continues to operate outside of constitutionally mandated lines of oversight and accountability. DOGE’s position—on paper, but not in practice—within the White House Office, combined with Congressional Republicans’ complicity, have largely hidden DOGE from Congressional oversight and public reporting requirements. Its status within the Executive Office of the President keeps DOGE insulated from the jurisdiction of a dedicated inspector general who could proactively audit or investigate the central operations of DOGE. Given the expansive reach and unprecedented power President Trump bestowed on DOGE, this lack of accountability and oversight is an egregious violation of public trust and a grave trespass against the public interest.

C. Diversion of Funding to Fuel the DOGE Agenda

DOGE’s operations have been funded by a combination of appropriations originally allocated for software modernization—funding that was intended to help address the federal government’s backlog of IT modernization needs—and reimbursements from the executive agencies it has terrorized and gutted.³⁴

For example, according to an agreement between the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and DOGE, DOGE would be reimbursed by CFPB for up to 5 full-time equivalent employees while agency whistleblowers

³² See Department of Government Efficiency, *Homepage* (online at <https://doge.gov>) (accessed Feb. 2, 2026).

³³ *DOGE’s Only Public Ledger is Riddled with Mistakes*, New York Times (Feb. 21, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/02/21/upshot/doge-musk-trump-errors.html).

³⁴ See Congressional Research Service, *Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) Executive Order: Early Implementation* (Jan. 27, 2025) (IN12493) (online at www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/IN/PDF/IN12493/IN12493.1.pdf); Government Accountability Office, *Information Technology: Agencies Need to Plan for Modernizing Critical Decades-Old Legacy Systems* (July 17, 2025) (GAO-25-107795) (online at www.gao.gov/products/gao-25-107795).

reported that it had planned “to gradually fire nearly all of the agency’s 1,700 employees over three phases.”³⁵

Reporting indicates that the Department of Labor has a similar agreement with DOGE as it was “forced to provide DOGE unfettered access and ignore the protections they have in place to protect Americans’ sensitive records.”³⁶ As of January 29, 2026, President Trump approved DOGE’s apportionment of an estimated \$81 million in appropriated funds and reimbursements from other executive branch agencies for DOGE activities in fiscal years 2025 and 2026.³⁷

D. Major Operations

As outlined in detail in the remainder of this report, DOGE has led or been involved in a broad range of the Trump Administration’s actions including:

- **Decimation and Demoralization of the Federal Workforce:** On January 20, 2025, President Trump imposed a hiring freeze for civilian employees and directed OMB—in coordination with DOGE and OPM—to submit a plan for

³⁵ Executive Office of the President, U.S. DOGE Service, *Terms and Conditions for Reimbursable and Non-Reimbursable Work: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)* (online at https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_doge-reimbursable-work-agreement_2025-10.pdf) (accessed Dec. 4, 2025); *Here is The Agreement DOGE Has with The Consumer Watchdog Agency It is Cutting Up*, Fortune (Apr. 10, 2025) (online at <https://fortune.com/2025/04/10/here-is-the-agreement-doge-has-with-the-consumer-watchdog-agency-it-is-cutting-up/>).

³⁶ *US DOGE Service Agreement with Department of Labor Shows \$1.3 Million Fee—and Details Its Mission*, WIRED (Apr. 9, 2025) (online at www.wired.com/story/department-of-labor-doge-usds-payment/); Democracy Forward, *Protecting Sensitive Labor Data from Unlawful DOGE Access* (online at <https://democracyforward.org/work/legal/protecting-sensitive-labor-data-from-unlawful-doge-access/>) (accessed Dec. 10, 2025).

³⁷ Based on Democratic Committee staff analysis of OMB apportionment data via Protect Democracy. See Open OMB, *United States DOGE Service Account* (online at <https://openomb.org/agency/executive-office-of-the-president/bureau/unanticipated-needs/account/united-states-doge-service/>) (accessed Feb. 2, 2026); Open OMB, *United States DOGE Service Account* (online at https://openomb.org/file/11475844#tafs_11475844--011-0041--5--2025) (accessed Feb. 2, 2026); Open OMB, *United States DOGE Service Account* (online at https://openomb.org/file/11410067#tafs_11410067--011-0041-2022-2031--1--2025) (accessed Feb. 2, 2026); Open OMB, *United States DOGE Service Account* (online at https://openomb.org/file/11470658#tafs_11470658--011-0041-2024-2028--2--2025) (accessed Feb. 2, 2026); Open OMB, *United States DOGE Service Account* (online at https://openomb.org/file/11439133#tafs_11439133--011-0041-2025-2025--5--2025) (accessed Feb. 2, 2026); Open OMB, *United States DOGE Service Account* (online at https://openomb.org/file/11477291#tafs_11477291--011-0041-2025-2026--1--2026) (accessed Feb. 2, 2026); Open OMB, *United States DOGE Service Account* (online at https://openomb.org/file/11496708#tafs_11496708--011-0041-2026-2026--4--2026) (accessed Feb. 2, 2026); Open OMB, *United States DOGE Service Account* (online at https://openomb.org/file/11496709#tafs_11496709--011-0041--4--2026) (accessed Feb. 2, 2026); Open OMB, *United States DOGE Service Account* (online at https://openomb.org/file/11496710#tafs_11496710--011-0041-2026-2027--1--2026) (accessed Feb. 2, 2026).

reducing the federal workforce.³⁸ The following months involved insulting and threatening treatment of federal employees, waves of mass terminations of employees with outstanding performance and essential skills, fumbling efforts to rehire critical employees that had been carelessly and disrespectfully fired, and a stream of early retirements that signify a civil service so antagonized that many of its members were forced out of public service positions they once cherished;³⁹

- **Unlawful Attacks on Statutory Programs:** The Trump Administration and DOGE have attempted to eliminate statutory programs and agencies, including the Department of Education (DoEd) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and to eliminate or severely curtail several independent agencies such as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM), and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH);⁴⁰
- **Delay, Degradation, and Elimination of Programs and Services for Americans:** DOGE has caused real harm to Americans in a multitude of ways, including delays in getting new medications to patients, diminished access to Social Security services, fewer food safety inspections, reduced protections against deadly wildfires, increased global instability, and reduced American global influence.⁴¹

³⁸ The White House, *Hiring Freeze* (online at www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/hiring-freeze/) (Jan. 20, 2025).

³⁹ See *Déjà Vu: Elon Musk Takes His Twitter Takeover Tactics to Washington*, New York Times (Jan. 30, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/01/30/technology/musk-doge-x-playbook.html); Office of Personnel Management, *Fork in the Road* (online at www.opm.gov/about-us/fork/) (accessed on Nov. 3, 2025); *Trump Administration Rehires Hundreds of Federal Employees Laid Off by DOGE*, AP (Sept. 23, 2025) (online at <https://apnews.com/article/doge-musk-trump-gsa-fired-employees-ce18553b281fbf5816ec2fd491d79b78>); *Russ Vought Wanted Feds "In Trauma." It's Happening.*, Politico (Oct. 16, 2025) (online at <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2025/10/16/russ-vought-wanted-feds-in-trauma-its-happening-00611222>).

⁴⁰ See Exec. Order No. 14242, 90 Fed. Reg. 13679 (Mar. 20, 2025); The White House, *Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid* (online at www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/reevaluating-and-realigning-united-states-foreign-aid/) (Jan. 20, 2025); *USAID Officially Shuts Down and Merges Remaining Operations with State Department*, NPR (July 1, 2025) (online at www.npr.org/2025/07/01/nx-s1-5451372/usa-id-officially-shuts-down-and-merges-remaining-operations-with-state-department); *Russ Vought Orders Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to Stop Work*, CBS News (Feb. 9, 2025) (online at www.cbsnews.com/news/consumer-financial-protection-bureau-stop-work-russ-vought/); Exec. Order No. 14238, 90 Fed. Reg. 13043 (Mar. 14, 2025).

⁴¹ See *Drug Development Is Slowing Down After Cuts at The FDA*, Wall Street Journal (Apr. 17, 2025) (online at www.wsj.com/health/healthcare/drug-development-is-slowing-down-after-cuts-at-the-fda-f22369cf?gaa_at); *Callers to Social Security Wait for Hours to Get Help*, Washington Post (Oct. 28, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/politics/interactive/2025/social-security-wait-hold-callback/); *After RFK Jr. Cut Food Safety Inspectors, The Strained FDA Struggles to Close The Gap*, Fortune (Apr. 18, 2025) (online at <https://fortune.com/well/2025/04/18/rfk-jr-fda-food-safety-inspectors-doge-job-cuts/>); *Wildland Firefighting Crews*

- **Reckless Handling of Americans' Data:**

Under Elon Musk's leadership, DOGE illegally deployed unsecure IT systems in the federal government and forcefully accessed Americans' private data across in clear violation of federal privacy and cybersecurity laws, raising concerns that citizens' personal data was leaked or shared with outside parties;⁴²

- **Dismantling of Protections and Safeguards Against Waste, Fraud, Abuse, and Corruption:** With the help of DOGE, the Trump Administration has weakened or eliminated critical offices and fired employees responsible for protecting the public interest;⁴³ and

- **Lying to the American Public:** In addition to the lies detailed throughout this report, DOGE claims that it contributed to the termination of more than 13,440 contracts, 264 leases, and 15,887 grants across the federal government, but DOGE's estimated "savings" have been found to be inaccurate and intentionally misleading to the American public.⁴⁴

This analysis demonstrates that the high costs of DOGE unequivocally erase any verified savings it can claim, raising concerns that President Trump and Mr. Musk took advantage of the public's demands for a more efficient, effective government to instead serve their own personal interests.

Left Short-Staffed by DOGE Ahead of Wildfire Season, CBS News (May 9, 2025) (online at www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-washington-oregon-parks-workers-funding-cuts-challenge-wildfires/); *US Cedes Ground to China with "Self-inflicted Wound" of USAid Shutdown, Analysts Say*, The Guardian (Feb. 6, 2025) (online at www.theguardian.com/world/2025/feb/07/donald-trump-usaid-shutdown-impact-china-relationship-funding).

⁴² *He Accused DOGE of Risking Social Security Data. It Cost Him His Career*, Washington Post (Oct. 20, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/10/20/social-security-data-doge-whistleblower/).

⁴³ See, e.g., *How DOGE's Cuts to the IRS Threaten to Cost More Than DOGE Will Ever Save*, ProPublica (Mar. 5, 2025) (online at www.propublica.org/article/how-doge-irs-cuts-will-cost-more-than-savings-trump-musk-deficit); *Justice Department Office That Prosecutes Public Corruption Slashed in Size, Sources Say*, NBC News (Mar. 11, 2025) (online at www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/justice-department-office-prosecutes-public-corruption-slashed-size-so-rcna195928).

⁴⁴ *Department of Government Efficiency, Savings* (online at <https://doge.gov/savings>) (accessed Jan. 22, 2025); *Just How Much Has DOGE Exaggerated Its Numbers? Now We Have Receipts*, Politico (Aug. 12, 2025) (online at www.politico.com/news/2025/08/12/trump-doge-contract-claims-savings-inflation-00498178).

III. INVENTORY OF DOGE HARMS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

A. When DOGE Couldn't Find "Waste, Fraud, and Abuse," They Made Up Their Own Numbers

During the 2024 presidential campaign, Elon Musk claimed he could reduce the federal deficit by eliminating "at least \$2 trillion" in federal spending, promising the destruction of the American social safety net.⁴⁵ He began walking back these goals after President Trump's election victory.⁴⁶ In early 2025, Mr. Musk appeared on a variety of conservative-leaning podcasts and media outlets baselessly claiming that fake or stolen Social Security numbers led to more than \$500 billion in fraud.⁴⁷ Media analysis classified Mr. Musk's claims about waste and fraud in the federal government as lacking evidence or misleading, saying that he misconstrued Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports or lacked basic understanding of the contracts in question.⁴⁸

DOGE created a public website to document what it claimed were government savings it had accrued—a move Musk declared was "maximally transparent."⁴⁹ However, after DOGE initially claimed \$55 billion in savings, the website only showed actual documentation for \$16.5 billion.⁵⁰ Media reports showed that half of those documented savings proved to be miscalculated after one cancelled contract turned out to include a data entry error for \$8 billion instead of \$8 million. Further analysis was only able to confirm that DOGE had canceled \$2 billion in contracts—a small fraction of their original \$55 billion claim—and suggested that DOGE employees lacked basic contracting knowledge to understand the impact of their actions.

*More than one-third of DOGE's contract cancellations yielded no monetary savings.*⁵¹

⁴⁵ *Musk Says DOGE Might Not Be Able to Cut \$2 Trillion, Actually*, Politico (Jan. 9, 2025) (online at www.politico.com/live-updates/2025/01/09/congress/elon-musk-doge-budget-cuts-00197274).

⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁷ MS NOW, *Joe: Elon Musk Said We Have to Eliminate Social Security and Medicare* (online at www.ms.now/morning-joe/watch/joe-elon-musk-said-we-have-to-eliminate-social-security-and-medicare-234088517924) (Mar. 11, 2025).

⁴⁸ *Assessing Elon Musk's Misleading Claims About Fraud in Government Spending*, New York Times (Mar. 28, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/03/28/us/politics/fact-check-elon-musk-government-spending-fraud-claims.html).

⁴⁹ *Musk Claims DOGE Is Saving Taxpayers Billions, But the Data is Unclear*, NPR (Feb. 13, 2025) (online at www.npr.org/2025/02/11/nx-s1-5290288/doge-savings-billions-contracts-musk-trump).

⁵⁰ *DOGE Released Data About Federal Contract Savings. It Doesn't Add Up*, NPR (Feb. 19, 2025) (online at www.npr.org/2025/02/19/nx-s1-5302705/doge-overstates-savings-federal-contracts).

⁵¹ *Id.*

An August 2025 Politico analysis found that DOGE had only cut \$1.4 billion in total spending but also noted that that spending would not reduce the deficit as those funds would be returned to agencies that were obligated to spend those funds by law.⁵²

B. DOGE Actions Likely Cost Americans More in the Long Term

Many of the programs that DOGE cut create American jobs, directly promote economic growth, and yield greater tax revenue or fund programs that generate their own revenue.



The report found that nearly 21,000 job cuts were attributed to the loss of federal funding to private and non-profit entities from DOGE cuts, in addition to nearly 300,000 planned layoffs of federal workers and contractors.⁵³ More broadly, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) found that DOGE cuts at several agencies reduced domestic economic activity by more than \$10 billion and defunded programs that were expected to return billions of dollars to Americans.⁵⁴

DOGE eviscerated multiple agencies in purported cost cutting measures; however, many of the programs targeted by DOGE actually delivered positive return on investment for the economy or taxpayers, so cuts generated little to no benefit. For example, since 2011, CFPB received \$7.3 billion in funding from the Federal Reserve but returned over \$21 billion to consumers from penalties as a result of enforcement actions and an additional \$5 billion to its victim relief fund—a three-fold return on cost. Similarly, CREW estimated that cuts to USAID would have amounted to \$28.9 billion in payments to U.S. based organizations from the agency.

⁵² *Just How Much Has DOGE Exaggerated Its Numbers? Now We Have Receipts*, Politico (Aug. 12, 2025) (online at www.politico.com/news/2025/08/12/trump-doge-contract-claims-savings-inflation-00498178).

⁵³ Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc., *Press Release: Job Cuts Fall to Lowest Level in 17 Months; Highest December Hiring Since 2022: YTD Job Cuts 7th Highest Since 1989* (Jan. 8, 2026) (online at www.challengergray.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Challenger-Report-December-2025.pdf).

⁵⁴ *DOGE's Big Illusion: The Heavy Costs of The Trump Administration's So-Called Efficiency*, CREW (June 23, 2025) (online at www.citizensforethics.org/reports-investigations/crew-reports/doges-big-illusion-the-heavy-costs-of-the-trump-administrations-so-called-efficiency/).

For example, prior to its decimation by DOGE, USAID purchased grain and food from American farmers to feed starving populations around the world. Withdrawal of this funding has been projected to lead to job losses across all 50 states, damage to American businesses, and increased pressure on U.S. borders due to rising global instability.⁵⁵

C. **DOGE Made Critical Government Services That Americans Rely on Slower and Less Efficient**

As DOGE slashed the federal workforce, many programs already stressed under the weight of aging technology and years of budget cuts reached operational breaking points leading to longer waits and reduced service. For example:

- At the Social Security Administration (SSA), wait times for a callback ballooned to as high as two and a half hours for assistance between January and March 2025.⁵⁶ Americans attempting to access the SSA website for assistance frequently found the webpage down or unresponsive as DOGE recklessly implemented changes while cutting information technology (IT) staff.⁵⁷ SSA eventually discarded several of the supposed fraud checks implemented by DOGE because they significantly delayed claim processing without meaningfully combatting fraud.⁵⁸ Career employees reportedly knew that DOGE's anti-fraud measures would make little difference but were intimidated into silence for fear of losing their jobs.⁵⁹ DOGE also implemented a new requirement for Social Security applicants to verify their identity in person instead of over the phone if they aren't able to do so online, while at the same time closing regional and local offices and reducing the workforce at those offices that remained.⁶⁰ More than six million seniors have to drive nearly 50 miles round trip to reach their nearest Social Security office, more than twice the average distance an elderly person expects to

⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁶ *Callers to Social Security Wait for Hours to Get Help*, Washington Post (Oct. 28, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/politics/interactive/2025/social-security-wait-hold-callback/).

⁵⁷ *Social Security Website Keeps Crashing, as DOGE Demands Cuts to IT Staff*, Washington Post (Apr. 7, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/04/07/social-security-website-crashes-musk-trump/).

⁵⁸ *How DOGE's Grand Plan to Remake Social Security is Backfiring*, Washington Post (May 16, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/05/16/doge-social-security-musk-trump-cuts/).

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ *Social Security to Require Millions to Make Claims in Person Rather Than by Phone*, Washington Post (Mar. 18, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/03/18/social-security-musk-trump-doge/); *Social Security Officials Partially Walk Back Plans for In-Person Verification*, NPR (Mar. 27, 2025) (online at www.npr.org/2025/03/26/nx-s1-5341780/social-security-administration-identity-requirements); The Senior Citizens League, *Social Security Administration Announces New Identity Verification Requirements* (online at <https://seniorsleague.org/social-security-administration-announces-new-identity-verification-requirements/>) (accessed Feb. 4, 2026).

drive in a day.⁶¹ More than 13.5 million seniors live more than an hour from their nearest social security office.⁶²

Layoffs at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) led to delays in clinical trials and getting new drugs to sick patients.⁶³

- Remaining FDA workers reported struggling to meet statutorily mandated schedules for approving both tobacco products and medical products after the Trump Administration announced 3,500 job cuts across the agency.⁶⁴ At one point, FDA drug center leadership resorted to asking drug review staff to volunteer to work on contracting and acquisition tasks because the layoffs had eliminated the entire contracting office.⁶⁵
- The National Parks Service (NPS) has faced significant issues as DOGE cuts, buyouts, and the hiring freeze across the federal government left the agency without 25% of its staff.⁶⁶ The staff that remain have been forced to take on additional roles, wasting taxpayer resources. For example, skilled guides are performing menial tasks and the Trump Administration has left it up to volunteers

⁶¹ *Exclusive: As Social Security Services Are Cut Back, Millions of Seniors Face Long Drives*, Axios (Apr. 8, 2025) (online at www.axios.com/2025/04/08/social-security-seniors-drive).

⁶² *Social Security Service Restrictions Burden Seniors with Long, Unnecessary Travel*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (June 13, 2025) (online at www.cbpp.org/research/social-security/social-security-service-restrictions-burden-seniors-with-long-unnecessary).

⁶³ *Drug Development Is Slowing Down After Cuts at The FDA*, Wall Street Journal (April 17, 2025) (online at www.wsj.com/health/healthcare/drug-development-is-slowing-down-after-cuts-at-the-fda-f22369cf?gaa_at); *2025 Drug Approvals: Despite FDA Tumult and Macro Uncertainty, Biopharma Scored with 55 New Products*, Fierce Pharma (Jan. 5, 2026) (online at www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/2025-drug-approvals).

⁶⁴ *Exclusive: FDA Staff Struggle to Meet Product Review Deadlines After DOGE Layoffs*, Reuters (Mar. 27, 2025) (online at www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/fda-staff-struggle-meet-product-review-deadlines-after-doge-layoffs-2025-03-27/).

⁶⁵ *FDA Seeks Staff Volunteers to Replace Recently Laid-Off Workers*, Bloomberg Law (Apr. 24, 2025) (online at <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/health-law-and-business/fda-staff-seek-volunteers-for-contracts-work-depleted-by-layoffs>).

⁶⁶ *Trump's Cuts to National Parks Are Real but Many Visitors Aren't Seeing Them Yet*, NPR (July 24, 2025) (online at www.npr.org/2025/07/24/nx-s1-5472607/trumps-cuts-to-national-parks-are-real-but-many-visitors-arent-seeing-the-m-yet); *Senate Rejects Devastating National Park Funding and Staffing Cuts but Leaves Door Open to Future Threats*, National Parks Conservation Association (Jan. 5, 2026) (online at www.npca.org/articles/11276-senate-rejects-devastating-national-park-funding-and-staffing-cuts-but).

to police illegal camping.⁶⁷ Some parks reported that tasks like cleaning toilets have fallen to rotations of highly skilled workers like hydrologists and invasive species experts instead of seasonal workers or junior staff.⁶⁸ Some parks have reported diminished hours of operation, no lifeguards on duty at a national lakeshore, reduced programming, stolen artifacts, and delayed maintenance.⁶⁹

Due to DOGE cuts, American families are now spending more time and money filing their taxes.

- Following heavy lobbying by for-profit tax preparers, DOGE eliminated the technology team responsible for the free and popular electronic tax filing service, IRS Direct File.⁷⁰ Direct File for the 2024 filing season was by all accounts a success, serving hundreds of thousands of Americans. The program was projected to yield a net savings of \$11 billion for taxpayers once fully operational, providing a free option instead of forcing Americans to rely on accountants or tax preparation companies to file their federal taxes.⁷¹ In its first year, 86% of taxpayers that filed through Direct File said it increased their trust in the IRS.⁷² However, the Trump Administration announced that it would not renew the program for the upcoming 2025 filing season.⁷³

DOGE's full reach is not yet known, and the stories of failing federal services will only mount over time, with the total damage of these cuts spanning years, if not decades.

⁶⁷ *Id.*

⁶⁸ *Trump's Cuts to National Parks Are Real but Many Visitors Aren't Seeing Them Yet*, NPR (July 24, 2025) (online at www.npr.org/2025/07/24/nx-s1-5472607/trumps-cuts-to-national-parks-are-real-but-many-visitors-arent-seeing-the-m-yet).

⁶⁹ *Staffing Crisis at National Parks Reaches Breaking Point, New Data Shows 24% Decline in Permanent Workforce*, National Parks Conservation Association (July 3, 2025) (online at www.npca.org/articles/9551-staffing-crisis-at-national-parks-reaches-breaking-point-new-data-shows-24).

⁷⁰ *Direct File Died Under Trump. Meet the Creators Planning for Its Second Life*, FedScoop (Aug. 18, 2025) (online at <https://fedscoop.com/direct-file-future-of-tax-filing-fellows/>).

⁷¹ *Goodbye IRS Direct File, Hello Inefficiency*, Federation of American Scientists (Apr. 16, 2025) (online at <https://fas.org/publication/end-of-irs-direct-file/>).

⁷² *Id.*

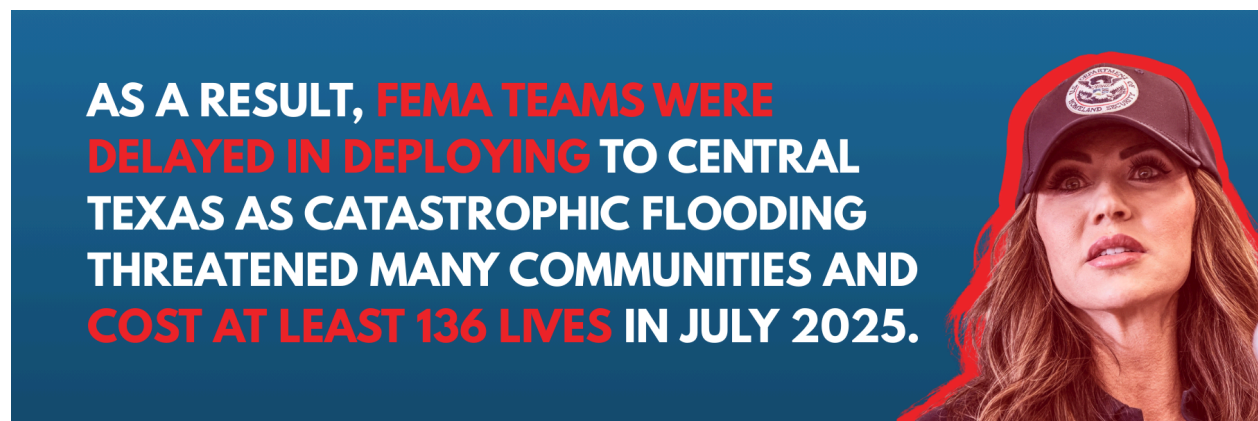
⁷³ Government Accountability Office, *Direct File: IRS Successfully Piloted Online Tax Filing but Opportunities Exist to Expand Access* (Dec. 19, 2024) (GAO-25-106933) (online at www.gao.gov/products/gao-25-106933); *IRS Tells States Direct File "Will Not Be Available" In 2026*, Federal News Network (Nov. 5, 2025) (online at <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/it-modernization/2025/11/irs-direct-file-will-not-be-available-in-2026-agency-tells-states/>).

D. DOGE So-Called “Efficiencies” Resulted in More Red Tape and Less Effective Programs

Far from contributing to increased government efficiency, DOGE placed additional bureaucratic hurdles for agencies in meeting their missions and serving the public. President Trump’s February 26, 2025, Executive Order 14222, “Implementing the President’s [DOGE] Cost Efficiency Initiative,” required agencies to insert additional levels of reporting, justification, and approval—beyond pre-existing controls—for nearly all federal spending, including existing contracts and grants and spending for supplies and equipment.⁷⁴ The order also required that all spending be reviewed for possible cuts or reallocation to “promote efficiency and advance the policies of [President Trump’s] Administration.”⁷⁵

In many cases, delays caused by these unnecessary levels of added review have delayed help to Americans struggling to recover from major disasters. According to media reports, Elon Musk and DOGE froze billions of dollars in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster grants, disrupting payments to disaster victims including North Carolina victims of Hurricane Helene. DOGE coordinated with FEMA officials to freeze payments related to several grant programs and provide DOGE with access to FEMA financial data.⁷⁶ Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem later ordered a broader freeze on nearly \$10 billion in disaster relief for non-profits to review whether the funding would “undermine the national interest.”⁷⁷

In some cases, DOGE-sanctioned delays have had life-or-death consequences. Secretary Noem implemented a rule requiring her personal sign-off for any spending over \$100,000.



⁷⁴ Exec. Order No. 14222, 90 Fed. Reg. 11095 (Feb. 26, 2025).

⁷⁵ *Id.*

⁷⁶ *Musk Targeted FEMA. Storm-Battered Communities are Paying a Price*, New York Times (Mar. 27, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/03/27/us/politics/musk-fema-immigrations-doge-freeze-aid.html).

⁷⁷ *Id.*; *FEMA Blocks \$10B in Disaster Aid over Immigration Concerns*, Politico (Mar. 28, 2025) (online at www.politico.com/news/2025/03/28/fema-blocks-disaster-aid-immigrants-00256910).

Instead of pre-deploying to areas near the disaster zone for faster response, FEMA officials were reportedly forced to wait for Noem’s signature for more than 72 hours after the flooding began before sending teams to assist.

Additionally, because FEMA had fired hundreds of contractors responsible for operating emergency call centers, reporting indicates that nearly two-thirds of calls to FEMA’s disaster assistance line related to the Texas flooding went unanswered.⁷⁸

Committee Democrats initiated an investigation into FEMA’s failures in Texas, though FEMA has so far failed to comply with the Committee’s requests.⁷⁹

In stark contrast to the delays in Texas, other examples of FEMA behavior under the Trump Administration show that DOGE’s disruption of traditional processes and safeguards creates opportunities for political favoritism and corruption that Trump Administration officials have exploited. With complete discretion over all spending, Secretary Noem can personally choose winners and losers for receipt of disaster assistance funding. Reporting found that Secretary Noem fast-tracked funding to rebuild a historic pier in Florida damaged in 2022.⁸⁰ While city officials were unable to make headway with FEMA after months of trying, once they asked a political donor of Noem’s for assistance, within two weeks the funding had been approved and Secretary Noem flew to Naples, Florida, for a tour of the new pier and dinner with the donor.⁸¹

At other agencies, DOGE “efficiency” efforts have resulted in lengthy delays and wasted resources for everyday necessities such as tools and basic maintenance services. In one example, a State Department employee described a new requirement for a 250-word essay, extra forms, and days of work and approvals needed to hire a vendor for an embassy event, which previously would have taken a single day.⁸² In another, a NASA employee was required to write several

⁷⁸ *FEMA Didn’t Answer Thousands of Calls from Flood Survivors, Documents Show*, New York Times (July 11, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/07/11/climate/fema-missed-calls-texas-floods.html).

⁷⁹ Letter from Rep. Greg Casar, Rep. Jasmine Crockett, and Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Mr. David Richardson, Federal Emergency Management Agency (July 11, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-07-11.casar-crockett-garcia-to-fema-re-texas-floods.pdf>).

⁸⁰ *Kristi Noem Fast-Tracked Millions in Disaster Aid to Florida Tourist Attraction After Campaign Donor Intervened*, ProPublica (Sept. 26, 2025) (online at www.propublica.org/article/kristi-noem-fema-florida-naples-sinan-gursoy).

⁸¹ *Id.*

⁸² *DOGE Vowed to Make Government More “Efficient”—But It’s Doing the Opposite*, Washington Post (June 2, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/06/02/doge-vowed-make-government-more-efficient-its-doing-opposite/).

detailed paragraphs justifying a purchase of fastening bolts. FDA employees have stated that DOGE requirements have caused significant delays in routine food monitoring tests for items like exposure to heavy metals because spending for every step—from purchasing lab supplies to paying to ship samples between labs—now requires separate department-level approval.⁸³

DOGE’s additional paperwork requirements and levels of review have resulted in huge delays and reduced the effectiveness of government programs meant to keep Americans safe, in effect costing Americans more in wasted personnel hours.

For example, in February 2025, DOGE froze government purchase cards—used for relatively small purchases of commercial goods and services below agency-determined thresholds that do not require contracting officer involvement—across 14 agencies.⁸⁴ As a result, Department of Defense programs—including research projects to develop protective equipment and efforts to recover and identify the remains of U.S. soldiers killed in combat—have had to pause or cancel purchases for equipment and services pending requests for an exception to policy. The FDA faced similar challenges, with labs unable to purchase necessary supplies and equipment.

One employee stated, “[i]t is becoming increasingly difficult to continue to work, which I fear is the point.”⁸⁵

E. DOGE Actions Wreaked Economic Havoc Across Multiple Sectors

As small businesses struggled to deal with the Trump tariffs, DOGE cut 2,700 employees—43% of the total staff—from the Small Business Administration (SBA). The Trump Administration and DOGE then tasked SBA with managing the \$1.6 trillion in student loans from the Department of Education. SBA is already responsible for managing millions of Economic Injury Disaster Loans from COVID-19—1.3 million of which are currently in default—and 40,000 annual loans to households and small businesses in disaster recovery areas. Additionally, SBA administers programs that assist small businesses in navigating the federal contracting process, allowing them access to opportunities that only large companies would otherwise have the resources to bid on.

⁸³ *Id.*

⁸⁴ General Services Administration, *Agency/Organization Program Coordinators (A-OPCs) Purchase Training, Lesson 3: Purchase Card/Account Use and Payment Solutions* (online at https://training.smartpay.gsa.gov/training_purchase_pc/lesson03/) (accessed Nov. 5, 2025); *DOGE’s \$1 Spending Card Limit Touches Everything from Military Research to Trash Pickup*, Washington Post (Mar. 9, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/03/09/doge-government-credit-card-limits/).

⁸⁵ *DOGE’s \$1 Spending Card Limit Touches Everything from Military Research to Trash Pickup*, Washington Post (Mar. 9, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/03/09/doge-government-credit-card-limits/).

SBA provides technical guidance and administers programs that help American entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses. Gutting its workforce and budget while loading it with additional responsibilities will limit future opportunities for millions of Americans.⁸⁶

DOGE also gutted the system of federal grantmaking, including the process for awarding federal grants for research that has driven decades of innovation. Over the last decade, federal agencies distributed roughly \$900 billion per year to state and local governments, non-profits, and education and research institutions. DOGE employees inserted themselves at every step in the process from start to finish, taking over the *Grants.gov* platform that controls Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) and claiming sole control of pre-clearing and posting funding opportunities. DOGE attempted to claw back previously distributed funds, causing chaos at recipient organizations. DOGE's new layers of review added additional paperwork and burden for grant seekers and unprecedented political criteria to the award process.⁸⁷

DOGE also created staggering delays in issuing grants that help Americans with a wide range of challenges including domestic violence and youth homelessness, with a billion-dollar grants backlog at HHS alone.⁸⁸

Many grant seekers already operate on shoestring budgets and cannot afford variability or additional burdens to receiving funding. In many cases, Congress mandated distribution of funds, so the increased burdens are de facto attempts to sidestep the legislative branch.⁸⁹ Introducing delays and uncertainty into these funding mechanisms disrupted research, prevented hiring, stifled programs that power the American economy, and translated to real suffering for

⁸⁶ Center for American Progress, *DOGE Takes a Chainsaw to The Services That Small Businesses Need* (Apr. 28, 2025) (online at www.americanprogress.org/article/doge-takes-a-chainsaw-to-the-services-that-small-businesses-need/).

⁸⁷ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *DOGE Interference in Federal Grantmaking Adds Burden, Uncertainty, and Risk* (May 28, 2025) (online at <https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-budget/doge-interference-in-federal-grantmaking-adds-burden-uncertainty-and-risk#main-content>).

⁸⁸ *HHS Facing Billion-Dollar Backlog of Delayed Grants After DOGE*, CBS News (July 11, 2025) (online at www.cbsnews.com/news/hhs-facing-billion-dollar-backlog-of-delayed-grants-after-doge/); *Politicizing The Federal Grantmaking Process*, Government Executive (Aug. 19, 2025) (online at www.govexec.com/management/2025/08/politicizing-federal-grantmaking-process/407558/).

⁸⁹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *DOGE Interference in Federal Grantmaking Adds Burden, Uncertainty, and Risk* (May 28, 2025) (online at <https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-budget/doge-interference-in-federal-grantmaking-adds-burden-uncertainty-and-risk#main-content>).

Americans.⁹⁰

DOGE's cuts and added red tape will also have long-term detrimental effects on the size of the U.S. economy. The Congressional Budget Office reported in July 2025 that every dollar of additional federal investment in research and development increases the size of the U.S. economy by \$11.50 over the following 30 years, increases federal revenues, and decreases the deficit in the long term. The report notes that the opposite—cuts to research funding—would have an equal and opposite effect.⁹¹



F. DOGE Actions Endangered National Security and the Privacy of All Americans

As DOGE employees deployed to various agencies, they brought with them dubious software engineering and cybersecurity practices that may have exposed millions of Americans' personal information to criminals and foreign governments.

⁹⁰*Id.*; *HHS Facing Billion-Dollar Backlog of Delayed Grants After DOGE*, CBS News (July 11, 2025) (online at www.cbsnews.com/news/hhs-facing-billion-dollar-backlog-of-delayed-grants-after-doge/); *Politicizing The Federal Grantmaking Process*, Government Executive (Aug. 19, 2025) (online at www.govexec.com/management/2025/08/politicizing-federal-grantmaking-process/407558/).

⁹¹ See Letter from Phillip L. Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office, to Ranking Member Brendan F. Boyle, Committee on the Budget (July 30, 2025) (online at www.cbo.gov/system/files/2025-07/61375-Research-Development.pdf); Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Administration's Proposed Cuts to Non-Defense R&D Pose Long-Term Risk to Rising Living Standards* (Oct. 6, 2025) (online at www.cbpp.org/research/federal-budget/administrations-proposed-cuts-to-non-defense-rd-pose-long-term-risk-to).

⁹² *Id.*; *How Did DOGE Disrupt So Much While Saving So Little?*, New York Times (Dec. 23, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/12/23/us/politics/doge-musk-trump-analysis.html).

Shortly after taking office, DOGE operatives at OPM implemented a new system to send the “Fork in the Road” email across government. DOGE employees flouted cybersecurity, privacy, and procurement laws to stand up this capability and exposed employees across a wide variety of agencies to spear-fishing and social engineering cyberattacks.⁹³

Following a request from Oversight Committee Democrats, OPM’s Office of the Inspector General (OIG) issued a flash report that found OPM failed to perform the basic due diligence necessary to implement this system. Trump appointees at OPM overrode career civil servants and ignored their warnings about security, privacy, and operations to force implementation of DOGE’s goals. DOGE also sent emails to the governmentwide email system it implemented, demanding that every employee submit “five things” they accomplish each week. The OIG’s report noted that this system had no controls preventing the dissemination of classified information over this unclassified channel.⁹⁴ DOGE staffers reportedly fed these responses into a version of Meta’s *Llama 2* AI model without regard for the model’s approval for use in the federal government or the potential leakage of sensitive information that might have been included in the emails.⁹⁵ DOGE employees also reportedly stored files on a mixture of Microsoft OneDrive, servers, and email attachments without traditional access controls.⁹⁶ OPM OIG determined that Trump Administration officials bypassed good practice and may have enabled foreign entry into these servers through the implementation of DOGE’s makeshift government-wide email system.⁹⁷

Committee Democratic staff have worked with whistleblowers and ethical cybersecurity experts and identified additional concerns with DOGE’s interference at OPM. Experts have shown evidence raising concerns of potential Russian and Chinese access to OPM servers shortly after DOGE created the government-wide email infrastructure. Separately, information received by Committee Democratic staff indicated that DOGE employees lowered all firewall protections at OPM to enable the exfiltration of data for use outside of a government environment. Each of these instances raises serious questions about national security as OPM holds sensitive government operations data that adversarial state and non-state actors could use for leverage over

⁹³ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Acting Director Charles Ezell, Office of Personnel Management (Feb. 4, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025.02.04.%20GEC%20and%20Brown%20to%20OPM-Ezell-%20DOGE%20Emails.pdf>).

⁹⁴ Office of Personnel Management Office of the Inspector General, *Audit of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management’s Government-Wide Email System* (Sept. 26, 2025) (2025-ISAG-018) (online at www.oversight.gov/sites/default/files/documents/reports/2025-09/2025-ISAG-018%20GWES%20Flash%20Audit%20Report%209.25%20SMR.pdf).

⁹⁵ *DOGE Used a Meta AI Model to Review Emails from Federal Workers*, Wired (May 22, 2025) (online at www.wired.com/story/doge-used-meta-ai-model-review-fork-emails-from-federal-workers/).

⁹⁶ Briefing by Office of Personnel Management Office of Inspector General to Staff, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Dec. 3, 2025).

⁹⁷ *Id.*

federal employees or to infiltrate other government systems.⁹⁸

Reports of cybersecurity mishaps, privacy violations, and accidental data leaks related to DOGE activity have continued throughout DOGE’s tenure.

For example, a whistleblower reported that DOGE operatives at the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) sent enormous amounts of sensitive case information outside of the government to unknown recipients, to the potential benefit of Elon Musk.⁹⁹

Experts consulted about the relevant data said that companies like Musk’s SpaceX could use the case information to “get insights into damaging testimony, union leadership, legal strategies and internal data,” and that the leak could include information about whistleblowers leading to intimidation and retaliation.¹⁰⁰

In another alarming example, in August 2025, a whistleblower from SSA—former Chief Data Officer Charles Borges—came forward to report DOGE operatives had accessed a database containing “the entire country’s Social Security information,” copied it to a high-risk external system potentially connected to external sources, and violated a March 20, 2025, court order barring them from continued access to the data.¹⁰¹ In his whistleblower disclosure, Mr. Borges outlined “apparent systemic data security violations, uninhibited administrative access to highly sensitive production environments, and potential violations of internal SSA security protocols and federal privacy laws.” This statement directly contradicts then-SSA Administrator Leland Dudek’s March 24, 2025, sworn statement that “DOGE Defendants have never had access to SSA systems of record”—that is, SSA’s most sensitive data on Americans.¹⁰²

⁹⁸ Communications with Democratic Committee Staff.

⁹⁹ *A Whistleblower's Disclosure Details How DOGE May Have Taken Sensitive Labor Data*, NPR (Apr. 15, 2025) (online at www.npr.org/2025/04/15/nx-s1-5355896/doge-nlr-elon-musk-spacex-security).

¹⁰⁰ *Id.*

¹⁰¹ Letter from Dana L. Gold and Andrea Meza, Government Accountability Project, to Chair Rand Paul and Ranking Member Gary Peters, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Chair Mike Crapo and Ranking Member Ron Wyden, Senate Committee on Finance; Chair James Comer and Ranking Member Robert Garcia, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; Chair Jason Smith and Ranking Member Richard E. Neal, House Ways and Means Committee; and Acting Special Counsel Jamieson Greer, U.S. Office of Special Counsel (Aug. 26, 2025) (online at <https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/a9f2afd18a79e330/b181d62a-full.pdf>).

¹⁰² Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Ms. Michelle L. Anderson, Acting Inspector General for Audit Performing the Duties of the Inspector General, Social Security Administration (Sept. 23, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-09-22.garcia-to-ssa-oig-re-doge-whistleblower.pdf>); Notice of Corrections to the Record, (Jan. 16, 2026), *American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO et al. v. Social Security Administration et al.* (Case No. 1:25-cv-00596-ELH).

In January 2026, the Department of Justice (DOJ) had to file “corrections” to testimony from senior staff at SSA, including that DOGE employees had, in fact, accessed SSA’s most sensitive data and covertly signed a “Voter Data Agreement” with “a political advocacy group” that sought to “overturn election results in certain states.”¹⁰³ These revelations raise concerns that DOGE acted to deceive the court and, alarmingly, may have shared Americans’ sensitive Social Security data with a non-governmental organization for overtly political purposes.¹⁰⁴

DOGE operatives have also attempted to access private data at CFPB, DoEd, Treasury, and the IRS.¹⁰⁵ DOGE’s forced access to Treasury data was particularly noteworthy as a Treasury threat intelligence analysis recommended that DOGE staff “be placed under insider threat monitoring and alerting after their access to payment systems is revoked. Continued access to any payment systems by DOGE members, even ‘read only,’ may have posed the single greatest insider threat risk the Bureau of the Fiscal Service has ever faced.”¹⁰⁶

National security also suffered due to DOGE’s indiscriminate workforce cuts, and agencies had to rush to re-hire critical staff as they discovered they had removed employees with functions directly responsible for national defense and other critical functions.

The Trump Administration fired almost 17% of the workforce at the National Nuclear Security Administration, the agency responsible for the safeguarding of the country’s 5,000 nuclear warheads. The agency then had to scramble to re-hire many of those highly skilled

¹⁰³ Notice of Corrections to the Record (Jan. 16, 2026), *American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO et al. v. Social Security Administration et al.* (Case No. 1:25 CV 00596-ELH).

¹⁰⁴ *Id.*; *Trump Administration Concedes DOGE Team May Have Misused Social Security Data*, Politico (Jan. 20, 2026) (online at www.politico.com/news/2026/01/20/trump-musk-doge-social-security-00737245).

¹⁰⁵ *Id.*; *Here Are All the Agencies that Elon Musk and DOGE Have Been Trying to Dismantle So Far*, ABC News (Feb. 27, 2025) (online at <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/elon-musks-government-dismantling-fight-stop/story?id=118576033>); Tax Policy Center, *How DOGE’s Access to IRS Data Puts Taxpayer Information at Risk* (Feb. 20, 2025) (online at <https://taxpolicycenter.org/taxvox/how-doges-access-irs-data-puts-taxpayer-information-risk>).

¹⁰⁶ *A US Treasury Threat Intelligence Analysis Designates DOGE Staff as “Insider Threat”*, Wired (Feb. 7, 2025) (online at www.wired.com/story/treasury-bfs-doge-insider-threat/).

individuals, posting new jobs and wasting resources to reverse the reckless firing spree.

One FDA employee who also underwent the firing and rehiring process said of DOGE’s incompetence, “[n]ow it feels like it was all just a game to them.” Similarly, the IRS tried to reinstate fired probationary employees so quickly that it did not have desks or computers ready for them. DOGE also fired probationary employees at the National Weather Service, forcing the agency to then post new listings to replace the very hydrologists, meteorologists, physical scientists, and electronics technicians it had just lost.¹⁰⁷

G. Reckless DOGE Cuts Endangered Americans’ Health and Safety

DOGE’s expansive and careless cuts have had dangerous and far-reaching consequences for public health and community safety. In addition to DOGE’s eye-popping delays to approvals in new medicines for patients and federal research grants for lifesaving innovation discussed in previous sections, ProPublica reported that veterans have lost access to “life-saving cancer trials,” opioid addiction treatments, and other healthcare resources after DOGE-related cuts, despite a congressionally-mandated expansion of care.¹⁰⁸ DOGE also cut food safety inspectors and researchers at the USDA, removing the oversight that protects Americans from viral diseases and food borne pathogens.¹⁰⁹

These firings limited USDA’s response to the 2025 avian flu outbreak, contributing to a significant increase in egg prices.¹¹⁰

Additionally, DOGE weakened emergency readiness and disaster response at some of the most crucial government agencies responsible for managing crises. In addition to the previously mentioned FEMA delays in responding to catastrophic flooding in Texas in 2025, staffing reductions at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National

¹⁰⁷ *Trump Administration Races to Fix a Big Mistake: DOGE Fired Too Many People*, Washington Post (June 6, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/06/06/doge-staff-cuts-rehiring-federal-workers/).

¹⁰⁸ *Internal VA Emails Reveal How Trump Cuts Jeopardize Veterans’ Care, Including To “Life-Saving Cancer Trials”*, ProPublica (May 6, 2025) (online at www.propublica.org/article/trump-veterans-affairs-budget-staff-cuts-jeopardize-cancer-research).

¹⁰⁹ *USDA Layoffs Leave Research, Along with Chickens, Cows and Bison, in The Lurch*, Iowa Public Radio (Feb. 21, 2025) (online at www.iowapublicradio.org/ipr-news/2025-02-21/usda-federal-layoffs-ames-iowa-bird-flu-vaccine-testing-animal-research); See *After RFK Jr. Cut Food Safety Inspectors, The Strained FDA Struggles to Close The Gap*, Fortune (Apr. 18, 2025) (online at <https://fortune.com/well/2025/04/18/rfk-jr-fda-food-safety-inspectors-doge-job-cuts/>); *FEMA Didn’t Answer Thousands of Calls From Flood Survivors, Documents Show*, New York Times (June 11, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/07/11/climate/fema-missed-calls-texas-floods.html).

¹¹⁰ *USDA Tries to Reverse Mistaken Firing of Bird Flu Response Workers*, Washington Post (Feb. 19, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2025/02/19/bird-flu-usda-doge-musk-trump/).

Weather Service have led to the loss of crucial knowledge at the agencies, making it harder for local governments to anticipate and prepare for natural disasters.¹¹¹ Committee Democrats requested that the Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General investigate NOAA and NWS' capacity to monitor severe weather events and adequately warn Americans about events like those in Central Texas.¹¹² Additionally, after Hurricane Helene, NPR reported that the disbanding of the CDC's post-disaster response team stymied ongoing recovery efforts, reducing the agency's ability to address ongoing public health concerns.¹¹³ As one former NOAA Administrator stated, President Trump's cuts to a significant portion of FEMA's operations mean "[l]ives are going to be lost, property is going to be damaged."¹¹⁴

DOGE's cuts to critical programs have caused outsized harm to rural communities. DOGE cuts to federal grant programs put rural hospitals in jeopardy, leaving many Americans—especially in isolated areas—without access to essential care. Rural clinics that rely on teaching program grants to staff primary care physicians needed to spend valuable staff time and resources to come up with contingencies to deal with whether Elon Musk and his team decided to cut the grants. States like North Carolina, whose state health agency relies heavily on federal funding to operate, have very limited resources to support their basic health-related operations including providing medications and hiring doctors.¹¹⁵ Now, President Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" is forcing many of these rural hospitals to shut down.¹¹⁶

At the same time, wildfire suppression efforts have suffered from reduced federal support as firefighting teams are cut, placing smaller towns and rural regions at greater risk as they often

¹¹¹ *Where Local Forecast Offices No Longer Monitor Weather Around-the-clock*, Washington Post (May 16, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2025/05/16/weather-service-offices-overnight-cuts-map/); *As NOAA Braces for More Cuts, Scientists Say Public Safety is at Risk*, PBS (Mar 14, 2025) (online at www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/as-noaa-braces-for-more-cuts-scientists-say-public-safety-is-at-risk); See *DOGE Cuts Contributed to Texas Flood Impact—Former NOAA Administrator*, Newsweek (July 8, 2025) (online at www.newsweek.com/doge-cuts-texas-floods-noaa-vacancy-2096151).

¹¹² Letter from Rep. Greg Casar, Rep. Jasmine Crockett, and Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Mr. David Richardson, Federal Emergency Management Agency (July 11, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-07-11.casar-crockett-garcia-to-fema-re-texas-floods.pdf>).

¹¹³ *DOGE Cut a CDC Team as it Was About to Start a Project to Help N.C. Flood Victims*, NPR (Apr. 15, 2025) (online at www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/04/15/nx-s1-5364897/cdc-disaster-doge-trump-layoffs-hurricane-helene).

¹¹⁴ *Flood Predictions Could Worsen when Trump's Cuts Take Hold*, Politico (July 8, 2025) (online at www.politico.com/news/2025/07/08/flood-deaths-trump-agenda-00441859).

¹¹⁵ *The Scramble to Save Rural Health Care From DOGE*, The Atlantic (Apr. 21, 2025) (online at www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2025/04/doge-rural-health-trump-alabama/682513/).

¹¹⁶ *Hospitals and Clinics are Shutting Down Due to Trump's Healthcare Cuts. Here's Where*, The Guardian (Nov. 21, 2025) (online at www.theguardian.com/business/2025/nov/20/hospitals-shutdown-trump-healthcare-cuts).

lack capacity and resources to handle such disasters on their own.¹¹⁷ Among other actions, DOGE reduced the workforce in forest restoration teams that prevent and limit the strength of forest fires and eliminated firefighters and support workers that serve on the frontline once blazes start.¹¹⁸ Reporting indicates that the DOGE cuts have indeed left wildfire-prone areas more vulnerable than ever.¹¹⁹ One analysis found that over the first nine months of 2025, the Forest Service was far behind previous years in fire mitigation treatment, with 38% less fuel reduction work completed as compared to the same period in previous years.¹²⁰ Additionally, USDA officials may be misrepresenting the Forest Service’s readiness to confront wildfires. While Secretary Rollins and agency reporting claim that the Forest Service is meeting its hiring goals, ProPublica found that those statements have not accounted for the large wave of DOGE-initiated layoffs and resignations since the beginning of the Trump Administration, with more than 27% of Forest Service firefighting positions vacant as of mid-July 2025.¹²¹

H. DOGE Endangered Americans by Increasing Global Instability, Disease, Conflict, and Suffering

Since the Cold War, America has worked to make the world—and the interests of Americans—safer and more secure through USAID.¹²² U.S. foreign assistance, a critical source of America’s “soft power,” is a flexible tool that has served for decades as a catalyst or a deterrent in promoting American interests abroad, solving specific international problems, reducing needless suffering, and influencing global events.¹²³ One study found that, in the last 20 years, USAID work had saved more than 90 million lives.¹²⁴ President Trump and DOGE “systematically dismantled” USAID, eliminating thousands of jobs both domestically and internationally and essentially signing a death sentence to an estimated 14 million people

¹¹⁷ *Wildland Firefighting Crews Left Short-Staffed by DOGE Ahead of Wildfire Season*, CBS News (May 9, 2025) (online at www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-washington-oregon-parks-workers-funding-cuts-challenge-wildfires/).

¹¹⁸ *Id.*

¹¹⁹ *Is The Forest Service Falling Behind on Wildfire Prevention?*, Salt Lake Tribune (Dec. 3, 2025) (online at www.sltrib.com/news/environment/2025/12/03/wildfires-forest-service-is/).

¹²⁰ Memorandum from Grassroots Wildland Firefighters, *Declines in Wildfire Preparedness* (Oct. 2025) (online at <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/682782f2a74ed97f7aa5152e/t/6903d8e5e156c029545a838e/1761859813133/GWF+Memo+on+Declines+in+Wildfire+Preparedness+Oct+2025.pdf>).

¹²¹ *The Forest Service Claims It’s Fully Staffed for a Worsening Fire Season. Data Shows Thousands of Unfilled Jobs*, ProPublica (July 22, 2025) (online at www.propublica.org/article/forest-service-staff-fire-season).

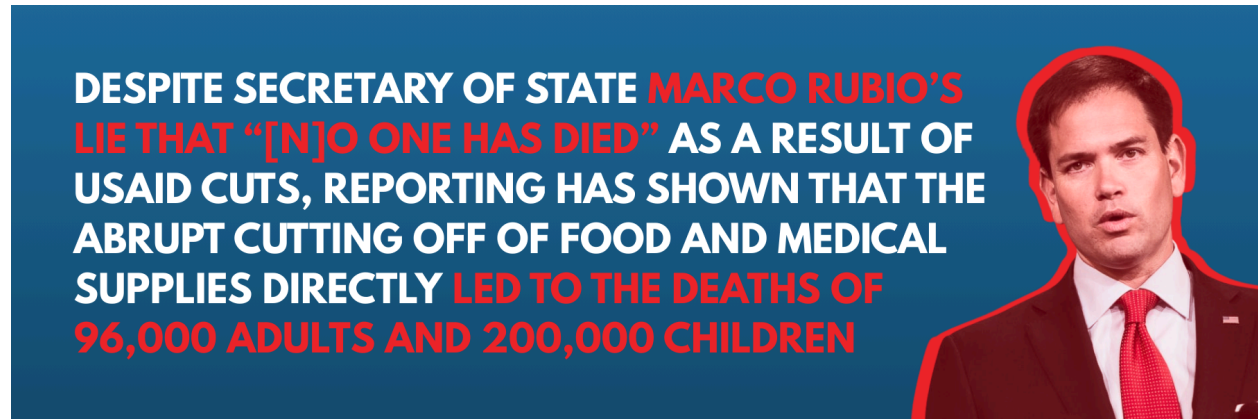
¹²² Council on Foreign Relations, *What Is USAID and Why Is It at Risk?* (Feb. 7, 2025) (online at www.cfr.org/article/what-usaid-and-why-it-risk).

¹²³ Congressional Research Service, *Foreign Assistance: An Introduction to U.S. Programs and Policy* (Jan. 10, 2022) (R40213) (online at www.crs.gov/reports/pdf/R40213/R40213.pdf).

¹²⁴ *Study: 14 Million Lives Could Be Lost Due to Trump Aid Cuts*, NPR (July 1, 2025) (online at www.npr.org/sections/goats-and-soda/2025/07/01/nx-s1-5452513/trump-usaid-foreign-aid-deaths).

worldwide by 2030.¹²⁵

Following the dismantling of USAID, American soft power and diplomatic effectiveness faded nearly overnight, allowing near peer adversaries like Russia and China to expand their influence by filling the vacuum the United States left behind.¹²⁶



across several countries in less than four months after dismantling of the agency.¹²⁷ Seizing the opportunity created by the United States's abrupt and reckless departure, China launched programs to fill gaps in multiple areas of concern, especially Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific where they have taken over USAID programs and are reaping soft power advantages in strategic geographic areas.¹²⁸ After a major earthquake in Myanmar, Chinese and Russian teams beat American teams to provide aid on the ground as the United States no longer had sufficient partners on the ground to deploy resources.¹²⁹

As former Republican Congressman Charlie Dent stated, “[w]eak and failing states are breeding grounds for terrorism, drug trafficking and mass migration. By addressing root causes of instability, USAID helps prevent crises before they require costly U.S. military

¹²⁵ *Id.*; *Farewell to USAID: Reflections on the Agency that President Trump Dismantled*, NPR (July 1, 2025) (online at www.npr.org/sections/goats-and-soda/2025/07/01/g-s1-75222/usa-id-trump-humanitarian-rubio-musk).

¹²⁶ Council on Foreign Relations, *What Is USAID and Why Is It at Risk?* (Feb. 7, 2025) (online at www.cfr.org/article/what-usaid-and-why-it-risk).

¹²⁷ *Marco Rubio Said No One Has Died Due to U.S. Aid Cuts. This Mom Disagrees*, NPR (May 28, 2025) (online at www.npr.org/sections/goats-and-soda/2025/05/28/g-s1-69186/marco-rubio-usaid-death-sickle-cell-nigeria).

¹²⁸ Council on Strategic Risks, *China Seizes an Opportunity from the United States in Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Response* (Apr. 11, 2025) (online at <https://councilonstrategicrisks.org/2025/04/11/china-seizes-an-opportunity-from-the-united-states-in-humanitarian-aid-and-disaster-response/>).

¹²⁹ *Id.*

intervention.”¹³⁰ The Trump Administration’s dismantling of USAID has put the United States at risk of these threats and endangers the security of Americans both at home and abroad.

I. DOGE Cut the Very Offices Responsible for Fighting Waste, Fraud, Abuse, and Corruption

Offices of Inspectors General (OIG) at federal agencies are responsible for—and have an extensive track record of—identifying corruption, fraud, and waste in our government.¹³¹ An analysis by Oversight Committee Democrats found that DOGE-driven cuts starved OIGs of the resources they need to root out corruption and hold power accountable, despite the President’s assurances to the public that addressing waste, fraud, and abuse is a high priority. As a result of the Trump Administration’s reckless efforts to drive federal workers from their jobs without assessing the potential harm to the American people, the federal government’s OIGs lost hundreds of key personnel, including critical auditors, investigators, and senior leaders who were instrumental in fighting waste, fraud, abuse and corruption.¹³² The Trump Administration also placed hiring freezes on federal agencies—including OIGs—and directed them to undertake mass reduction in force (RIF) initiatives, threatening to make these challenges worse.¹³³

These actions have both deprived OIGs of the personnel and resources they need to examine and address waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption in government, and limited agencies’ ability to respond to OIG requests.¹³⁴ Numerous OIGs reported to Committee staff about alterations of work schedules, delays in agency responses to OIG requests, and recruitment and retention issues. One OIG office feared that it “could experience delays in the future due to staff reductions resulting from the hiring freeze, meeting EO compliance, Deferred Resignation

¹³⁰ *Shuttering USAID is a Win for China and a Loss for America*, The Hill (Feb. 10, 2025) (online at <https://thehill.com/opinion/5134684-us-agency-foreign-aid-threatened/>).

¹³¹ Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, *Annual Report to the President and Congress: Fiscal Year 2025*, (online at www.ignet.gov/sites/default/files/files/CIGIE%202025%20Annual%20Report%20to%20the%20President_FINAL.pdf) (accessed Feb. 4, 2026).

¹³² *Déjà Vu: Elon Musk Takes His Twitter Takeover Tactics to Washington*, New York Times (Jan. 30, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/01/30/technology/musk-doge-x-playbook.html). At least 75,000 employees accepted the Office of Personnel Management’s “deferred resignation” offer across the federal government.; *OPM: 75,000 Workers Took Trump, Musk Government Buyout*, The Hill (Feb. 12, 2025) (online at <https://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/5142311-opm-75000-workers-took-trump-musk-government-buyout/>); Communications with Democratic Committee staff.

¹³³ The White House, *Implementing the President’s “Department of Government Efficiency” Workforce Optimization Initiative* (Feb. 11, 2025) (online at www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative/); Email from Staff, Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General, to Democratic Staff, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Mar. 4, 2025).

¹³⁴ Communications with Democratic Committee staff; See *The Federal Work Force Cuts So Far; Agency by Agency*, New York Times (updated May 12, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/03/28/us/politics/trump-doge-federal-job-cuts.html).

Program, and any future RIF requirements.”¹³⁵ Another OIG reported the loss of 20% of its staff since the start of fiscal year 2024 to the Deferred Resignation Program (DRP), early retirement and separation incentives, and other attrition, which is its “lowest known staffing level based on historical data.”¹³⁶ That OIG noted that “[l]eadership in our Technology Services has been decimated as a result of the DRP and VERA.” It continued, “as the largest office within the OIG, the largest number of staff departures from the OIG have been experienced auditors, including several senior Audit Services staff.” That OIG is now “operating with the fewest number of auditors in decades.”¹³⁷ One OIG expected to employ nearly 16% fewer personnel than in 2020.¹³⁸ Another OIG expected to employ 31% fewer personnel in 2025 than in 2024 thanks to increased separations through the Deferred Resignation Program.¹³⁹

It is clear that some of OIGs’ critical functions have been seriously impacted by the shortages and staffing challenges.¹⁴⁰ The loss of experienced auditors, investigators, and other key staff, and simultaneous loss of timely access to agency information, risk creating a significant knowledge gap within each OIG—blind spots where investigative timelines are delayed, backlogs of pending cases grow, and agency fraud, waste, and abuse can go unchecked. This evidence builds on other egregious Trump Administration actions against IG independence and effectiveness, including the politicization of IGs and the obstruction of IG access to information, demonstrating an extensive pattern of effort to dismantle oversight and evade accountability to the American public.

IV. CRONY CAPITALISM

A. As DOGE Cut Critical Federal Programs and Services, the Trump Administration Put the Interests of the Rich and Well-Connected Above the American People

¹³⁵ Email from Staff, Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General, to Democratic Staff, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Mar. 4, 2025).

¹³⁶ Email from Staff, Department of Education Office of Inspector General, to Democratic Staff, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (May 9, 2025).

¹³⁷ Email from Staff, Department of Education Office of Inspector General, to Democratic Staff, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (May 9, 2025).

¹³⁸ Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, Response to Committee Staff (May 14, 2025); Email from Staff, Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, to Democratic Staff, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (July 29, 2025).

¹³⁹ Email from Staff, Department of the Treasury Office of Inspector General, to Democratic Staff, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (May 8, 2025).

¹⁴⁰ Communications with Staff, Chief Financial Officers Act Office of Inspector General, and Democratic Staff, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (July 29, 2025).

President Trump and Elon Musk sold DOGE to the public as a commitment to “reduce the deficit by a trillion dollars.”¹⁴¹ But the so-called “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” President Trump and Congressional Republicans’ signature legislative achievement signed into law in July 2025, demonstrates that this branding was simply a smokescreen to cut programs and services most Americans rely on and instead funnel more money and power to the wealthy. The law provides \$2.3 billion in tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans while increasing the deficit by an estimated \$3.4 trillion through 2034, engulfing any “savings” from DOGE’s cuts by many magnitudes while kicking roughly 15 million people off their health insurance and cutting food assistance for the most vulnerable Americans.¹⁴²

The Trump Administration has not stopped at looting the federal government for the benefit of the wealthy at the expense of hardworking Americans; it is also systematically eliminating legal and regulatory safeguards that protect the interests of the American people against corruption and abuse. On his first day in office, President Trump issued an executive order, “Ending the Weaponization of the Federal Government,” which purported to combat so-called abuse of regulatory and legal levers for political purposes.¹⁴³ It has instead acted as a vehicle for reducing accountability for donors and allies of the Trump Administration. The Order specifically names the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)—all agencies with responsibility for

¹⁴¹ Rev, *Musk and DOGE on Bret Baier* (www.rev.com/transcripts/musk-and-doge-on-brett-baier) (accessed Dec. 10, 2025).

¹⁴² See *7 Ways The Big Beautiful Bill Cuts Taxes for The Rich*, Center for American Progress (Nov. 20, 2025) (online at www.americanprogress.org/article/7-ways-the-big-beautiful-bill-cuts-taxes-for-the-rich/); Congressional Budget Office, *Estimated Budgetary Effects of Public Law 119-21, to Provide for Reconciliation Pursuant to Title II of H. Con. Res. 14, Relative to CBO’s January 2025 Baseline* (July 21, 2025) (online at www.cbo.gov/publication/61570); Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *By the Numbers: Harmful Republican Megabill Will Take Health Coverage Away from Millions of People and Raise Families’ Costs* (Aug. 27, 2025) (online at www.cbpp.org/research/health/by-the-numbers-harmful-republican-megabill-will-take-health-coverage-away-from); *Trump’s “Big Beautiful Bill” Cuts Food Stamps for Millions—The Average Family May Lose \$146 Per Month, Report Finds*, CNBC (July 10, 2025) (online at www.cnn.com/2025/07/10/trumps-big-beautiful-bill-cuts-snap-for-millions-of-families.html).

¹⁴³ Exec. Order No. 14147, Fed. Reg. 90 FR 8235 (Jan. 20, 2025).

identifying and prosecuting corruption and business practices against the public interest—as potential bad actors.¹⁴⁴

The Trump Administration has since sought to eradicate the levers of executive branch accountability. In March 2025, the DOJ purged its Public Integrity Section—which oversees prosecutions of politicians accused of corruption—of all but a fraction of its former employees.¹⁴⁵ As a former DOJ official described the purge:

The only reasonable interpretation of this extraordinary action is that the administration wants to transfer responsibility for public corruption cases from career attorneys at Main Justice to political appointees [... raising] serious questions about whether future investigations and prosecutions will be motivated by improper partisan considerations.¹⁴⁶

In a perfect illustration of this concern, President Trump’s “Border Czar,” Tom Homan escaped accountability for an apparent bribery scandal after accepting \$50,000 in cash from an undercover FBI agent in a sting operation in October 2025.¹⁴⁷ Homan allegedly accepted the cash as a bribe in exchange for promised immigration-related government contracts when he joined the Trump Administration.¹⁴⁸ The investigation—opened under the Biden Administration—has since been closed by FBI Director Kash Patel, but neither Mr. Homan, DOJ, nor others in the Administration have been forthcoming about the outcome of the case, including whether Mr. Homan ever returned the \$50,000.¹⁴⁹

B. DOGE Incapacitated Agencies that Hold Predatory Businesses Accountable

On January 31, 2025, President Trump fired the CFPB Director, eventually dual-hatting

¹⁴⁴ *Id.*; See also Securities and Exchange Commission, *Mission* (online at www.sec.gov/about/mission) (accessed Nov. 6, 2025); Federal Trade Commission, *Mission* (online at www.ftc.gov/about-ftc/mission) (accessed Nov. 6, 2025); Department of Justice, *Public Integrity Section (PIN)* (online at www.justice.gov/criminal/criminal-pin) (accessed Nov. 6, 2025).

¹⁴⁵ *Justice Department Office That Prosecutes Public Corruption Slashed in Size, Sources Say*, NBC News (Mar. 11, 2025) (online at www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/justice-department-office-prosecutes-public-corruption-slashed-size-so-rcna195928).

¹⁴⁶ *Id.*

¹⁴⁷ *Tom Homan Was Said to Have Received \$50,000 From Agents. He May Not Have to Return It.*, New York Times (Oct. 8, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/10/08/us/politics/tom-homan-sting-money.html).

¹⁴⁸ *Trump Aide Homan Accepted \$50,000 in Bribery Sting Operation, Sources Say*, Reuters (Sept. 22, 2025) (online at www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-aide-homan-accepted-50000-bribery-sting-operation-sources-say-2025-09-21/).

¹⁴⁹ *Id.*; *Tom Homan Was Said to Have Received \$50,000 From Agents. He May Not Have to Return It.*, New York Times (Oct. 8, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/10/08/us/politics/tom-homan-sting-money.html).

OMB Director Russell Vought as the Acting CFPB Director.¹⁵⁰ In early February 2025, Vought, in his Acting CFPB Director capacity, instructed all employees to stop work. DOGE officials began implementing plans to shut down CFPB, firing the overwhelming majority of employees.¹⁵¹ After DOGE's firings, CFPB subsequently dropped investigations and lawsuits against major firms for corporate malfeasance, increasing the risk of serious financial consequences for consumers. For example, one halted CFPB investigation included an inquiry into whether Facebook improperly stored users' confidential financial information.¹⁵² Similarly, Mr. Musk stands to benefit from dismantling the CFPB, as the agency would directly oversee a mobile payments function Musk sought to add to his social media platform X.¹⁵³

In another serious instance, reporting indicates that the DOGE staffer who oversaw firings at CFPB stood to gain financially from that effort, as he owned about \$365,000 in shares of companies regulated by the Bureau.¹⁵⁴ Executive branch employees are generally prohibited from working on matters in which they hold a personal stake, but CFPB goes further for its own employees, requiring that they disinvest from companies under the agency's purview to ensure impartiality.¹⁵⁵ There is no indication this DOGE staffer took such precautions.

DOGE has also directly reduced capacity at agencies that hold wealthy tax cheats accountable and ensure that tech companies offering medical technology are not gambling with the health and safety of Americans:

¹⁵⁰ Memorandum Opinion, *National Treasury Employees Union, et al., v. Russell Vought* (No. 1:25 CV 00381) (Mar. 29, 2025).

¹⁵¹ *Id.*

¹⁵² *Fend for Yourself: Under Trump, Consumer Protection Bureau's Probes of Big Tech and Finance Firms Freeze Up*, ProPublica (Mar. 26, 2025) (online at www.propublica.org/article/trump-cfpb-investigation-capital-one-rocket-meta-carvana-greenlight).

¹⁵³ *Elon Musk's DOGE Takes Aim at Agency That Had Plans of Regulating X*, NPR (Feb. 12, 2025) (online at www.npr.org/2025/02/12/nx-s1-5293382/x-elon-musk-doge-cfpb).

¹⁵⁴ *A DOGE Aide Involved in Dismantling Consumer Bureau Owns Stock in Companies That Could Benefit from the Cuts*, ProPublica (Apr. 29, 2025) (online at www.propublica.org/article/doge-consumer-financial-protection-bureau-gavin-kliger-stock).

¹⁵⁵ See Office of Government Ethics, *Standards of Ethical Conduct*, at p. 10 (Jan. 1, 2017) (online at www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/0/86D5B4F72AF0FBCB852585B6005A1A22/%24FILE/Standards%20of%20Ethical%20Conduct%20508.pdf); Consumer Protection Bureau, *Protecting the Public's Trust* (May 24, 2012) (online at www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/protecting-the-publics-trust/).

- According to reports, DOGE staff were involved in firing FDA investigators responsible for oversight of Musk’s biotech company Neuralink.¹⁵⁶

DOGE staff embedded at the IRS initiated the mass firing of skilled specialists responsible for auditing the complex tax filings of large corporations and the ultra-wealthy.¹⁵⁷ The resulting workforce and skills shortages mean the IRS is at risk of being unable to recoup millions of dollars in taxes owed by wealthy companies and individuals, reducing the funds available for government programs and services.¹⁵⁸

- The Congressional Budget Office has found that reductions in funding for IRS tax enforcement reduce federal revenues as a result of lower tax compliance.¹⁵⁹

Elon Musk and DOGE’s active involvement in knee-capping agencies with which he has a direct conflict makes clear that Musk, DOGE, and the broader Trump Administration are focused on weakening accountability for the American people while advancing their own interests.

C. The Trump Administration Has Abused Taxpayer Funds for Their Own Gain

Rather than focusing on financial accountability and efficiency, members of the Trump Administration instead appear to be focused on enriching themselves and the wealthy with Americans’ hard-earned tax dollars. Elon Musk was well positioned to use sensitive data harvested by DOGE to train his own private AI systems, and to access competitors’ confidential trade secrets and other non-public details about government contracts.¹⁶⁰ In another example, the

¹⁵⁶ *DOGE Reportedly Fired the FDS Employees Who Were Reviewing Clinical Trials for Elon Musk’s Neuralink*, Fortune (Feb. 18, 2025) (online at <https://fortune.com/2025/02/18/doge-fired-fda-employees-overseeing-elon-musk-neuralink/>).

¹⁵⁷ *How DOGE’s Cuts to the IRS Threaten to Cost More Than DOGE Will Ever Save*, ProPublica (Mar. 5, 2025) (online at www.propublica.org/article/how-doge-irs-cuts-will-cost-more-than-savings-trump-musk-deficit); *The IRS Has Lost Almost One-Third of its Tax Auditors After 2 Months of DOGE Cuts, Report Says*, CBS News (May 7, 2025) (online at www.cbsnews.com/news/irs-doge-cuts-layoffs-31-percent-auditors-tax-revenue-impact/).

¹⁵⁸ Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, *Snapshot Report: IRS Workforce Reductions as Of May 2025* (July 18, 2025) (2025-IE-R027) (online at www.tigta.gov/sites/default/files/reports/2025-08/2025ier027fr.pdf).

¹⁵⁹ Congressional Budget Office, *How Changes in Funding for the IRS Affect Revenues* (Feb. 2024) (online at www.cbo.gov/publication/60037).

¹⁶⁰ See e.g., *DOGE Has The Keys to Sensitive Data That Could Help Elon Musk*, Washington Post (June 30, 2025) (online at

installation of Musk's Starlink satellite equipment at the General Services Administration, and the embedding of Musk-affiliated employees at the Federal Aviation Administration, raise concerns that Musk is siphoning non-public data and information on government systems for the benefit of his companies.¹⁶¹

In another stunning example of self-enrichment, DHS Secretary Kristi Noem and FBI Director Kash Patel spent agency funds to purchase and use taxpayer-funded private jets. Secretary Noem was criticized for spending \$170 million on new jets for the U.S. Coast Guard, including for her own use.¹⁶² FBI Director Patel has also come under fire for misuse of his government-furnished jet for wasteful and personal purposes, including traveling to see his girlfriend sing the national anthem at a wrestling match.¹⁶³

V. CONCLUSION

Many analyses have referred to the DOGE disaster as a failure, and DOGE did indeed fail at its stated mission of meaningfully reducing spending and increasing government efficiency. But in the Trump Administration's vindictive, ideologically motivated, and pointless quest to break the federal government, drive out talented and committed public servants, and make flashy promises of cutting fraud while enriching themselves and their wealthy donors, DOGE was a resounding success.

DOGE's actions to date raise serious constitutional questions about Executive Branch accountability and demand a fierce legislative and oversight response to rebuild from the Trump Administration's destruction. This response must charter a reformed executive branch that prohibits serious conflicts of interest in its public servants with ironclad statute, ensures the safety and security of Americans' sensitive data, and efficiently delivers critical services for the American people. Committee Democrats continue to investigate the Trump Administration and stakeholder reports regarding DOGE's actions and status. The investigation will assist the Committee in assessing legislative reforms needed to address the damage inflicted by DOGE on federal agencies, workforces, systems, and programs, and prevent further violations of the law.

www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/interactive/2025/musk-doge-personal-data-tesla-companies/); Center for American Progress, *How Is DOGE Abusing Its Power?* (Mar. 10, 2025) (online at www.americanprogress.org/article/how-is-doge-abusing-its-power/); Brookings, *How DOGE Is Using AI in Government* (Apr. 21, 2025) (online at www.brookings.edu/articles/how-doge-is-using-ai-in-government-the-techtank-podcast/).

¹⁶¹ See, e.g., *Elon Musk Installed His Top Lieutenants at a Federal Agency You Probably Haven't Heard Of*, AP (Apr. 17, 2025) (online at <https://apnews.com/article/doge-musk-trump-ai-starlink-gsa-efficiency-d67a41d1be98db11f05ca8e4472f53bd>); Campaign Legal Center, *Is Musk Using the FAA to Benefit Himself and His SpaceX Subsidiary, Starlink?* (Mar. 13, 2025) (online at <https://campaignlegal.org/update/musk-using-faa-benefit-himself-and-his-spacex-subsidiary-starlink>).

¹⁶² *Kristi Noem Defends \$170M Purchase of Gulfstream Jets for DHS Leaders*, The Hill (Oct. 20, 2025) (online at <https://thehill.com/policy/national-security/5563747-kristi-noem-gulfstream-jets-dhs/>).

¹⁶³ *FBI Fires Top Official Amid Kash Patel's Outrage Over Reports of Agency Jet Use*, The Guardian (Nov. 2, 2025) (online at www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/nov/02/fbi-fires-top-official-kash-patel-jet-use).

Committee Democrats remain steadfast in holding accountable DOGE and its affiliates, no matter how powerful, who took part in illegally dismantling the federal government and putting Americans at risk.

INDEX: OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Oversight Democrats and independent, nonpartisan watchdogs have been working to hold the Trump Administration and DOGE accountable for waste, fraud, and abuse.

Committee Democrats have asked the independent, nonpartisan Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct engagements on the following issues:

- Implementation of the Executive Order titled “Restoring Accountability to Policy-Influencing Positions within the Federal Workforce” issued January 20, 2025.¹⁶⁴
- U.S. DOGE Service and agency DOGE teams’ access to sensitive and critically important systems and information.¹⁶⁵
- The state of the federal workforce, including the total number of current and separated employees, and any difficulty experienced by OPM in the collection, analysis, and publication of human capital data.¹⁶⁶
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission staff reductions and office closures pursuant to President Trump’s Executive Order 14210 (EO 14210) implementing the Department of Government Efficiency’s (DOGE) “workforce optimization initiative.”¹⁶⁷
- OMB guidance related to permissible agency human capital functions during a lapse in appropriations.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁴ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to The Honorable Gene Dodaro, Government Accountability Office (Feb. 10, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-02-10gectododaroredogegao.pdf>).

¹⁶⁵ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to The Honorable Gene Dodaro, Government Accountability Office (Apr. 14, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-04-14gectododaroredogeeengagement.pdf>).

¹⁶⁶ Letter from Steny H. Hoyer et al. to The Honorable Gene Dodaro, Government Accountability Office (May 29, 2025) (online at <https://hoyer.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/hoyer.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/quill-letter-%23126421-gao-federal-workforce-magnitude-request-version-%231-05-28-2025-%40-06-30-pm%5B10%5D%5B81%5D.pdf>).

¹⁶⁷ Letter from Ranking Member Bobby Scott, Committee on Education and Workforce, Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Rep. Yassamin Ansari to The Honorable Gene Dodaro, Government Accountability Office (Aug. 1, 2025) (online at https://democrats-edworkforce.house.gov/imo/media/doc/scott_garcia_ansari_letter_letter_to_comptroller_general_dodaro_gao_re_request_executive_order_14210.pdf).

¹⁶⁸ Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Rep. James Walkinshaw to The Honorable Gene Dodaro, Government Accountability Office (Oct. 10, 2025) (online at

Then-Ranking Member Connolly and House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Jamie Raskin filed a FOIA request with the U.S. DOGE Service for records related to DOGE's operations and actions.¹⁶⁹

Committee Democrats have asked independent, nonpartisan inspectors general to initiate audits and investigations on the following issues:

- The nature of the work DOGE agency teams performed at NLRB and the Department of Labor, including all attempts to exfiltrate data and any attempts to cover up their activities.¹⁷⁰
- SSA's staffing capacity to support the technology that SSA and Social Security beneficiaries rely on, whether SSA has adequately prepared for the rapid transformation of its IT systems away from COBOL, and whether SSA is taking necessary steps to protect sensitive information under the Privacy Act and related laws in executing Trump Administration plans to compile a master database of Americans' sensitive data.¹⁷¹
- Potential involvement by the White House or Elon Musk in the Department of State's decision to urge countries to approve usage of Starlink, as well as any way the Department may have considered Starlink licensure as part of any trade or tariff negotiations.¹⁷²
- Security, operational controls, and data privacy concerns associated with a new IT system at the IRS as well as the unprecedented law enforcement agreement to

<https://walkinshaw.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/walkinshaw.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-10-10.garcia-walkinshaw-to-gao-re-anti-deficiency-act.pdf>

¹⁶⁹ Letter from Ranking Member Jamie Raskin, Committee on the Judiciary, and Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to U.S. DOGE Service (Mar. 17, 2025) (online at https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-judiciary.house.gov/files/migrated/UploadedFiles/2025-03-17_Raskin_Connolly_FOIA_Request.pdf)

¹⁷⁰ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Mr. Luiz Santos, Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, and The Honorable Ruth Blevins, National Labor Relations Board Office of Inspector General (Apr. 15, 2025) (<https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-04-15.gec-to-dol-and-nlrp-ig-re-doge.pdf>).

¹⁷¹ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Ms. Michelle L. Anderson, Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General (Apr. 17, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-04-17.gec-to-ssa-oig-master-data.pdf>).

¹⁷² Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Mr. Arne B. Baker, Department of State Office of Inspector General (May 13, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-05-13.gec-to-state-ig-re-starlink.pdf>).

exploit Americans' personal information from the IRS.¹⁷³

- Comprehensive evaluation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Weather Service's ability to meet their statutory obligations and an investigation into the preparation for, response to, and coordination around the catastrophic Texas floods.¹⁷⁴
- Whistleblower allegation that members of DOGE copied the entire Social Security database and illegally moved the information to an unsecure cloud server.¹⁷⁵

Committee Democrats launched or advanced investigations with the following letters regarding concerning actions by DOGE or Elon Musk:

- Letter to President Trump on "Fork in the Road" deferred resignation offer.¹⁷⁶
- Letter to President Trump on the reported entry of DOGE employees into federal facilities, including access to classified space and sensitive government data and information systems.¹⁷⁷
- Letter to OPM regarding an unknown server used to send emails to millions of federal employees.¹⁷⁸

¹⁷³ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Ms. Heather M. Hill, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (May 15, 2025) (online at <https://fedscoop.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2025/05/2025-05-15.GEC-to-TIGTA-re-IRS-Tech.pdf>).

¹⁷⁴ Letter from Rep. Greg Casar, Rep. Jasmine Crockett, and Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Mr. Duane Townsend, Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General (July 11, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-07-11.casar-crockett-garcia-to-commerce-oig-re-texas-floods.pdf>).

¹⁷⁵ Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Ms. Michelle L. Anderson, Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General (Sept. 23, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-09-22.garcia-to-ssa-oig-re-doge-whistleblower.pdf>).

¹⁷⁶ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly et al., Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to President Donald Trump (Feb. 3, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-02-03.%20GEC%20et%20al.%20to%20Trump%20re.%20Purge%20on%20the%20Federal%20Workforce.pdf>).

¹⁷⁷ Letter from Ranking Member Jim Himes, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Ranking Member Adam Smith, Committee on Armed Services, Ranking Member Gregory Meeks, Committee on Foreign Affairs, et al. to President Trump (Feb. 4, 2025) (online at https://democrats-intelligence.house.gov/uploadedfiles/rm_letter_to_potus_signed.pdf).

¹⁷⁸ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ranking Member Shontel Brown, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, to Acting Director Charles Ezell, Office of Personnel Management (Feb. 4, 2025) (online at

- Letter to six inspectors general relating to reports that unauthorized individuals—members of DOGE—had gained access to protected government networks and sensitive, potentially classified, data.¹⁷⁹
- Letter to President Trump regarding contradictory statements related to the role of Elon Musk within the Trump Administration.¹⁸⁰
- Letter to OPM and 24 CFO Act Agencies relating to OPM’s directive that federal employees submit five bullets of what they “accomplished last week.”¹⁸¹
- Letter to President Trump related to DOGE activities that create serious cybersecurity vulnerabilities, expose government networks to cyberattacks, and risk disclosure of sensitive and personal information.¹⁸²
- Letter to Elon Musk related to security failures associated with the *DOGE.gov* website.¹⁸³

<https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025.02.04.%20GEC%20and%20Brown%20to%20OPM-Ezell-%20DOGE%20Emails.pdf>).

¹⁷⁹ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, et al. to Mr. Loren Sciorba, Department of Treasury Office of Inspector General, et al. (Feb. 6, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-02-06.dem-members-to-igs-re-musk-letter.pdf>).

¹⁸⁰ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to President Donald Trump (Feb. 20, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-02-20.%20GEC%20to%20Trump%20re%20Musk%20Role%20DOGE.pdf>).

¹⁸¹ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Mr. Charles Ezell, Office of Personnel Management (Feb. 22, 2025) (<https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-02-22.GEC%20to%20OPM-%20Ezell%20re%20Musk%20Email.pdf>); Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, et al. to 24 Agency and Department Heads (Mar. 10, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-03-10-gec-to-24-cfo-agencies-re-rifs.pdf>).

¹⁸² Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ranking Member Shontel Brown, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, Ranking Member Melanie Stansbury, Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency, to President Donald Trump (Feb. 25, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-02-25.%20GEC%20Brown%20Stansbury%20to%20President%20Trump%20re.%20DOGE%20Cyber%20Issues.pdf>).

¹⁸³ Letter from Senator Elizabeth Warren, Rep. Melanie Stansbury, Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, et al., to Elon Musk, Senior Advisor to the President (Feb. 27, 2025) (online at <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/k4twz1lp7jo82nthanacs/2025.02.27-Letter-with-Sen.-Warren-to-DOGE.pdf?rlkey=antedgj6vwlq6sgsks4l5ypd&e=1&st=wez2eyrm&dl=0>).

- Letter to OPM related to the mass firing of probationary employees.¹⁸⁴
- Letter to President Trump regarding the unlawful firings of Senate-confirmed government officials as they investigate or prosecute companies belonging to Elon Musk.¹⁸⁵
- Letters to 24 CFO Act agencies related to DOGE's access to sensitive data.¹⁸⁶
- Letter to 24 CFO Act agencies related to the use of unapproved third-party artificial intelligence software employed by members of DOGE.¹⁸⁷
- Letter to 24 CFO Act Agencies related to Freedom of Information Act staffing levels across the federal government.¹⁸⁸
- Letter to the Postal Service and Postal Board of Governors related to an agreement with DOGE allowing DOGE to infiltrate the independent U.S. Postal Service.¹⁸⁹
- Letter to the White House and the General Services Administration (GSA) regarding the installation of Starlink's satellite internet service at the White House

¹⁸⁴ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, et al., to Mr. Charles Ezell, Office of Personnel Management (Mar. 3, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-03-03-gec-et-al-to-opm-ezell-re-probationary-period-rifs.pdf>).

¹⁸⁵ Letter from Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Cory A. Booker, Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, et al. to President Donald Trump (Mar. 3, 2025) (online at https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_from_senator_warren_to_trump_on_commissioner_firings_and_musk.pdf).

¹⁸⁶ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to 24 CFO Act Agencies (Mar. 6, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-03-06-gec-to-24-cfo-act-agencies-re-doge.pdf>).

¹⁸⁷ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to 24 CFO Act Agencies (Mar. 12, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-03-12-gec-to-24-agencies-re-doge-ai.pdf>).

¹⁸⁸ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to 24 CFO Act Agencies (Mar. 20, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-03-20-gec-to-24-cfo-agencies-re-foia-staffing.pdf>).

¹⁸⁹ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, U.S. Postal Service (Mar. 18, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-03-18-gec-to-usps-re-doge-agreement.pdf>); Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ranking Member Kweisi Mfume, Subcommittee on Government Operations, to Ms. Amber McReynolds, U.S. Postal Service (Mar. 31, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-03-31-gec-mfume-to-usps-bog-re-doge.pdf>).

Complex, GSA, and potentially other federal agencies.¹⁹⁰

- Letter to Acting General Counsel of the Department of Defense regarding Elon Musk’s conflicts of interest at the Department of Defense¹⁹¹;
- Letter to federal agencies related to Elon Musk’s conflicts of interest related to various federal programs.¹⁹²
- Letter to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration regarding Elon Musk’s conflicts of interest related to NASA programs.¹⁹³
- Letter to the Department of Transportation regarding Elon Musk’s conflicts of interest related to DOT programs.¹⁹⁴
- Letter to 24 CFO Act agencies related to Elon Musk and OPM’s “Five Bullets” emails.¹⁹⁵
- Letter to Special Counsel regarding Elon Musk’s financial disclosure requirements as a special government employee.¹⁹⁶

¹⁹⁰ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ranking Member Shontel Brown, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, to Ms. Susie Wiles, The White House, Mr. Fisher, the White House, and Acting Administrator Stephen Ehikian, General Services Administration (Apr. 7, 2025) (online at https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-04-07-gec-brown-to-wh-cos-wiles-and-acting-administrator-ehikian-re-starlink_0.pdf).

¹⁹¹ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Rep. Lynch, to Mr. Charles L. Young III, Department of Defense (Apr. 8, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-04-08-gec-et-al-to-dod-charles-young-re-musk-conflicts.pdf>).

¹⁹² Letter from Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Rep. Jasmine Crockett to Mr. John K. Guenther, Department of Commerce (Apr. 8, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-04-08-gec-crockett-to-commerce-guenther-re-musk-conflicts.pdf>).

¹⁹³ Letter from Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Rep. Maxwell Frost to Ms. Iris Lan, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Apr. 7, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-04-07-gec-frost-to-nasa-iris-lan-re-musk-conflicts.pdf>).

¹⁹⁴ Letter from Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Rep. Emily Randall to Ms. Judith S. Kaleta, Department of Transportation (Apr. 10, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-04-10-gec-randall-to-dot-kaleta-re-musk-conflicts.pdf>).

¹⁹⁵ Letter from Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to 24 CFO Act Agencies (Apr. 30, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/100-letters-merged-letters-all-1%29.pdf>).

¹⁹⁶ Letter from Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, et al. to Mr. David Warrington, Office of White House Counsel (May 1, 2025) (online at

- Letter to Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard regarding Elon Musk’s ties to China, Russia, and other foreign governments and officials.¹⁹⁷
- Letters to President Trump and FBI Director Kash Patel regarding Elon Musk’s drug use while serving as a special government employee and senior advisor at the White House.¹⁹⁸
- Letter to Microsoft related to DOGE employees’ high-level systems access to sensitive information at the NLRB.¹⁹⁹
- Letter to OPM and OMB regarding DOGE employees embedding themselves in key agency positions across the federal government.²⁰⁰
- Letter to OPM relating to DOGE’s intrusion into the Social Security database and illegal migration of such information onto an unsecure cloud server.²⁰¹

The Government Accountability Office found that the Trump Administration violated the Impoundment Control Act in at least five instances to date:

- Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration—Application of the Impoundment Control Act to Memorandum Suspending Approval of State

https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-05-01.gec-et-al-to-whc-warrington-re-sge-conflicts_0.pdf f).

¹⁹⁷ Letter from Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, et al. to The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard, Office of the Director of National Intelligence (May 1, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-05-01-letters-re-form-sf86.pdf>).

¹⁹⁸ Letter from Acting Ranking Member Stephen Lynch, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to President Trump (June 4, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-06-04.lynch-to-trump-re-musk-drug-use.pdf>); Letter from Acting Ranking Member Stephen Lynch, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to The Honorable Kash Patel, Federal Bureau of Investigation (May 30, 2025) (online at https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/05.30.2025-sfl-to-wiles_hegseth_patel_gabbard.pdf).

¹⁹⁹ Letter from Acting Ranking Member Stephen Lynch, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Satya Nadella, Microsoft (June 16, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-06-16.lynch-to-microsoft-re-nlr-github.pdf>).

²⁰⁰ Letter from Senator Elizabeth Warren, Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Senator Richard Blumenthal, to The Honorable Scott Kuper, Office of Personnel Management, and The Honorable Russell Vought, Office of Management and Budget (Aug. 6, 2025) (online at https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_from_senator_elizabeth_warren_to_opm_omb_on_doge_embedding.pdf).

²⁰¹ Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ranking Member Shontel Brown, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, to The Honorable Scott Kuper, Office of Personnel Management (Aug. 8, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-08-08rgtokuporredogeemployees.pdf>).

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plans;

- Institute of Museum and Library Services—Applicability of the Impoundment Control Act to Reduction of Agency Functions;
- Department of Health and Human Services—Application of Impoundment Control Act to Availability of Head Start Program Funds;
- Department of Health and Human Services—National Institutes of Health—Application of Impoundment Control Act to Availability of Funds for Grants; and
- Department of Homeland Security—Application of the Impoundment Control Act to Federal Emergency Management Agency Prior Year Federal Assistance Appropriations.²⁰²

Federal inspectors general have audited and investigated agency activities driven and assisted by DOGE:

- Oversight of USAID-Funded Humanitarian Assistance Programming Impacted by Staffing Reductions and Pause on Foreign Assistance (Feb. 10, 2025).²⁰³
- IRS Terminated Probationary Employees Without Following Internal Procedures and Considering Individual Performance (Aug. 14, 2025).²⁰⁴
- Audit of OPM’s Government-Wide Email System (Sept. 26, 2025).²⁰⁵
- Audit of U.S. African Development Foundation’s (USADF) Information Security

²⁰² Government Accountability Office, *Impoundment Control Act* (online at www.gao.gov/legal/appropriations-law/impoundment-control-act) (accessed Nov. 6, 2025). The Government Accountability Office is investigating 19 additional instances of potential violations of the Impoundment Control Act. Information provided to Committee staff.

²⁰³ U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General, *Oversight of USAID-Funded Humanitarian Assistance Programming Impacted by Staffing Reductions and Pause on Foreign Assistance* (Feb. 10, 2025) (online at <https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/USAID%20OIG%20-%20Oversight%20of%20USAID-Funded%20Humanitarian%20Assistance%20Programming%2021025.pdf>).

²⁰⁴ Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, *IRS Terminated Probationary Employees Without Following Internal Procedures and Considering Individual Performance* (Aug. 14, 2025) (2025-IE-R028) (online at www.tigta.gov/sites/default/files/reports/2025-08/2025ier028fr.pdf).

²⁰⁵ Office of Personnel Management Office of Inspector General, *Audit of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management’s Government-Wide Email System* (Sept. 24, 2025) (online at <https://www.oversight.gov/sites/default/files/documents/reports/2025-09/2025-ISAG-018%20GWES%20Flash%20Audit%20Report%209.25%20SMR.pdf>).

Program for FY 2025 (Jan. 13, 2026).²⁰⁶

- Ongoing Audits of Canceled USAID Grants, Contracts, and other Projects, and Ongoing Inspections of Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance Warehouses Storing Food Aid in South Africa.
- Planned Audits on the Reorganization of USAID Programs into Department of State; Layoffs and Terminations at USAID and Related Agencies; Payments of Travel Vouchers, Benefits, and Severance to USAID Staff; USAID Reduction in Force Process; and USAID Offboarding Employee Process.²⁰⁷

²⁰⁶ U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General, *FISMA: Overall Effectiveness of USADF's Information Security Program for FY 2025 Could Not Be Determined and Weaknesses Exist* (Jan. 13, 2026) (A-ADF-26-001-M) (online at <https://oig.usaid.gov/node/7993>).

²⁰⁷ Letter from Toayoa Aldridge, U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General, to Ranking Member Richard Blumenthal, Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (Sept. 26, 2025) (online at https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2025-10/Blumenthal%20Response_final%20signed.pdf).