

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074

MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 11, 2025

Mr. Doug Tulino
Acting Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260

Mr. Gary R. Barksdale
Chief Postal Inspector
U.S. Postal Inspection Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Acting Postmaster General Tulino and Mr. Barksdale:

We write with urgent concern that the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) is actively assisting the Trump Administration in carrying out its extreme anti-immigrant, mass deportation effort. Reports indicate that USPIS has joined the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) immigration task force and is cooperating with federal immigration authorities' requests to assist in its removal efforts.¹ We request that you provide information regarding any agreements between DHS and the U.S. Postal Service (Postal Service) or USPIS, as well as details on any formal or informal activities taken by the Postal Service or USPIS related to immigration enforcement.

USPIS, with approximately 1,300 inspectors, 600 uniformed officers, and 600 support staff, is the Postal Service's chief federal law enforcement organization, primarily responsible for "protect[ing] the Postal Service and its employees, infrastructure, and customers; enforce[ing] the laws that defend the nation's mail system from illegal or dangerous use; and ensur[ing] public trust in the mail."² According to USPIS's Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 annual report, USPIS most often investigates cases of prohibited narcotics sent through the mail, mail theft, robbery, assaults, and mail fraud.³ The investigative activities of USPIS are crucial in taking down criminal networks, drug traffickers, and other dangerous actors who use or abuse the mail system to carry out illicit activities. We are deeply concerned that the partnership between USPIS and DHS is not only an improper use of USPIS personnel, but will also significantly detract from USPIS's critical mission of addressing the present and increasing threats of mail theft and fraud, and attacks against our Postal workforce.

The *Washington Post* reports that on April 27, 2025, USPIS officers participated in an immigration raid on a Colorado nightclub where more than 100 immigrants were apprehended

¹ *USPS Law Enforcement Assists Trump "Mass Deportation" Effort, Sources and Records Show*, Washington Post (Apr. 29, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/04/29/usps-immigration-trump-deportations/)

² U.S. Postal Inspection Service, *Annual Report 2023* (July 2024) (online at www.uspis.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ARFY2023-annual-report.pdf).

³ *Id.*

and detained.⁴ USPS participation in an immigration raid far exceeds the scope of its typical duties. Federal immigration officials have also reportedly requested that USPS provide access to mail surveillance data, package tracking information, credit card data, and IP addresses, as well as mail covers—photographs of the outside of envelopes and packages—to help locate immigrants for apprehension.⁵

To reach every address in the United States, the Postal Service maintains a wide swath of personal information on individuals present in the United States. This data is highly restricted, may only be shared in very limited situations, and is largely protected by the Privacy Act, which requires the Postal Service to implement comprehensive protections of personal information. In a small set of circumstances, the Postal Service may enter into legal agreements with federal agencies to allow the transfer or exchange of data, including computer matching of personal data.⁶ Similarly, the Postal Service may make mail cover data available to law enforcement only in limited circumstances, such as to protect national security or assist in locating a fugitive.⁷

It is clear that DHS intends to use the highly sensitive information maintained by the Postal Service as part of its broader weaponization of personal information to carry out its mass deportation agenda. On April 18, 2025, *Wired* reported that DHS has engaged in an effort to build a “master database” aimed at tracking and surveilling immigrants using data from DHS, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the Social Security Administration (SSA).⁸ Reportedly, a memorandum of understanding signed on April 7, 2025, between the Treasury Department and DHS obliges the IRS to share information about taxpayers suspected to be undocumented immigrants despite years of the IRS promising to maintain the confidentiality of taxpayer information as required by the Internal Revenue Code.⁹ The Committee has also received reports about troubling efforts by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to combine sensitive information held by SSA, the IRS, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other agencies into a single cross-agency master database—without regard for important cybersecurity and privacy considerations, and potentially in violation of the law.

⁴ *USPS Law Enforcement Assists Trump “Mass Deportation” Effort, Sources and Records Show*, Washington Post (Apr. 29, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/04/29/usps-immigration-trump-deportations/). See also DEARockyMountain (@DEAROCKYMTNdiv), X (Apr. 27, 2025) (online at <http://x.com/DEAROCKYMTNdiv/status/1916502536544014420>).

⁵ *USPS Law Enforcement Assists Trump “Mass Deportation” Effort, Sources and Records Show*, Washington Post (Apr. 29, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/04/29/usps-immigration-trump-deportations/).

⁶ U.S. Postal Service, *Guide to Privacy, the Freedom of Information Act, and Records Management* (Jan. 2025) (online at https://about.usps.com/policy/as353_pol.pdf).

⁷ See 39 CFR § 233.3.

⁸ *DOGE Is Building a Master Database to Surveil and Track Immigrants*, *Wired* (Apr. 18, 2025) (online at www.wired.com/story/doge-collecting-immigrant-data-surveil-track/).

⁹ Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Ms. Heather M. Hill, Acting Inspector General for Tax Administration, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (May 15, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-oversight.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-05-15.gec-to-tigta-re-irs-tech.pdf>).

The Trump Administration has carried out a massive detention and deportation effort of thousands of noncitizens, many of whom have legal status in the U.S. or have no prior criminal history. The Administration has employed multiple federal agencies to carry out its deportation effort by reassigning thousands of federal employees away from their normal duties, including 25% of personnel with the Drug Enforcement Agency; 80% of federal agents within the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and Explosives; thousands of IRS agents within its Criminal Investigation unit; and many law enforcement officers with the Department of Justice.¹⁰ The Administration is using all levers of government to target immigrants, including strong-arming the IRS to provide confidential taxpayer records to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to support this effort.¹¹ The alleged partnership between USPIIS and DHS raises serious concerns that USPIIS and the Postal Service are being enlisted to participate in the Administration's mass deportation agenda in a manner that jeopardizes the sensitive personal data of all Americans and the critical internal systems of the Postal Service.

In light of reporting that USPIIS "is very, very nervous about this" new relationship with DHS, the Committee demands to know if Postal Service or USPIIS personnel or resources are being diverted away from their intended purposes and instead commandeered to identify, locate, and apprehend undocumented immigrants.¹² We request that you provide an immediate briefing to Committee staff on the status of the Postal Service and USPIIS's activities related to immigration enforcement. We also request that you provide the following documents and materials by June 25, 2025:

1. All communications, agreements, memoranda, or informal arrangements between the Postal Service, USPIIS, DHS, any DHS subcomponents (including ICE), and any other federal agency, related to immigration enforcement; and
2. All policies, procedures, protocols, and other controls regarding access to sensitive data and information.

Additionally, please provide substantive and complete answers to the following requests for information by June 25, 2025:

1. Please identify and describe each Postal Service and USPIIS system, network, or database to which individuals associated with DHS, any DHS subcomponents (including ICE), and any other federal agency have been granted access, related to immigration enforcement, including:

¹⁰ Brookings, *100 Days of Immigration Under Second Trump Administration* (Apr. 29, 2025) (online at www.brookings.edu/articles/100-days-of-immigration-under-the-second-trump-administration/); *ICE Has Arrested Scores of Migrants in the U.S. Who Have No Criminal Records*, NPR (Feb. 5, 2025) (online at www.npr.org/2025/02/04/nx-s1-5282379/trumps-mass-deportation-arrests-of-non-criminal-immigrants-no-criminal-record).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *USPS Law Enforcement Assists Trump "Mass Deportation" Effort, Sources and Records Show*, Washington Post (Apr. 29, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/04/29/usps-immigration-trump-deportations/).



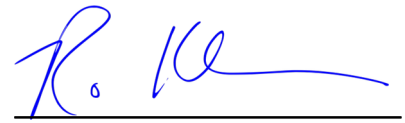
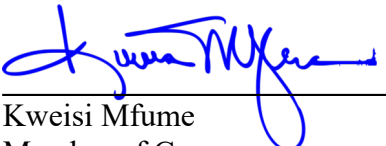
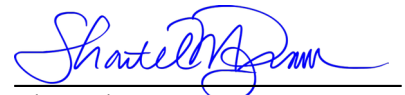
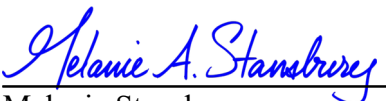
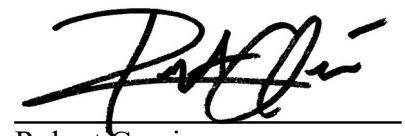
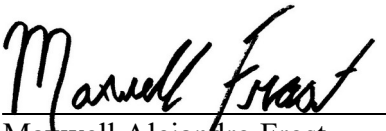


- a. The identity of all individuals or entities who have been granted access to each system;
 - b. The data contained in each system, including whether it contains personally identifiable information (PII), Social Security numbers, financial records, home addresses, and/or protected health information; and
 - c. The legal or policy authority and justification for such access permitted to each individual or entity.
2. Please describe the process by which DHS, any DHS subcomponents (including ICE), or any other federal agency, was granted access to Postal Service and USPS systems, personnel, and/or resources, related to immigration enforcement, including:
 - a. The statutory or regulatory authority relied upon to grant such access;
 - b. The identity, position, and role of officials who approved such access;
 - c. The duration of such access and revocation mechanisms; and
 - d. Any deviations from standard Postal Service or USPS access protocols.
3. Please identify any disclosures, transfers, or exchanges of data subject to the Privacy Act between the Postal Service, USPS, and DHS, any DHS subcomponents (including ICE), and any other federal immigration agency, related to immigration enforcement; and
 - a. Determine whether such transfers complied with applicable law, including Privacy Act routine use exemptions, disclosure rules, and notice requirements.
4. Please identify the type(s) of data and/or information requested by DHS, any DHS subcomponent (including ICE), or any other federal agency, related to immigration enforcement, since January 20, 2025; and
5. Please identify the number of Postal Service and USPS personnel assigned to or supporting activities related to immigration enforcement with DHS, any DHS subcomponent (including ICE), or any other federal agency, including:
 - a. The position, including title and regular duties, of each applicable person.

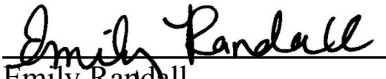
The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Full compliance with our requests is necessary, in part to

Mr. Doug Tulino and Mr. Gary R. Barksdale
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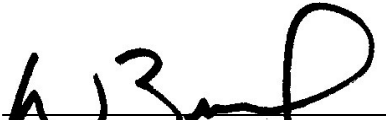
determine whether legislative reforms are needed to ensure the continued effective operation of the Postal Service and USPS, and to maintain the security of our federal government systems and privacy of sensitive personnel data. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.


Sincerely,


Stephen F. Lynch
Acting Ranking Member
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress
Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress
Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress
Greg Casar
Member of Congress
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress

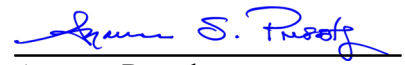

Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress


Wesley Bell
Member of Congress


Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress


Dave Min
Member of Congress


Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress


Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman