

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

October 2, 2025

The Honorable Jamieson Greer  
Acting Special Counsel  
United States Office of Special Counsel  
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 218  
Washington, DC 20036-4505

Dear Mr. Greer:

I write regarding the Trump Administration's apparent violations of the Hatch Act, and illegal use of government resources to promote a false, partisan Republican political agenda. On September 30, 2025, the Trump Administration posted political messages regarding the current government shutdown on at least one agency website and via official government emails to thousands of federal employees.<sup>1</sup> The Hatch Act imposes clear restrictions on the political activity of federal executive branch employees and does not allow activity "directed toward the success or failure of a political party, partisan political group, or candidate for partisan political office."<sup>2</sup> Given the Trump Administration's blatant violation of the law, I request that the Office of Special Counsel immediately open an investigation into this clear misconduct, and for you to cooperate with our Committee as we investigate this blatant misuse of taxpayer dollars for political purposes.

Messages shared by multiple Trump Administration agencies in the last few days attempt to place blame for the current government shutdown on congressional Democrats and the Democratic Party.<sup>3</sup> On September 30, 2025, the Department of Housing and Urban Development used their website's homepage to blame the "Radical Left" for inflicting "massive pain on the American people."<sup>4</sup> The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development also took to the social media platform, X, to call out Democrats, posting that "it is shameful that far-left Democrats are

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<sup>1</sup> *Federal Agencies Blame Democrats for Looming Shutdown in Apparent Hatch Act Violation*, Guardian (Sep. 30, 2025) (online at [www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/sep/30/federal-agencies-democrats-shutdown](http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/sep/30/federal-agencies-democrats-shutdown)).

<sup>2</sup> See 5 U.S.C. § 7321-7326; Office of Special Counsel, *Hatch Act Advisory Opinion Regarding Official Agency Communications* (Sep. 5, 2025) (online at <https://osc.gov/Documents/Hatch%20Act/Advisory%20Opinions/Federal/Hatch%20Act%20Advisory%20Opinion%20Regarding%20Official%20Agency%20Communications.pdf>).

<sup>3</sup> *Trump-Run Agencies Blame 'Radical' Left and Democrats for Shutdown*, New York Times (Sep. 30, 2025) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2025/09/30/us/politics/federal-agencies-government-shutdown.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/30/us/politics/federal-agencies-government-shutdown.html)).

<sup>4</sup> Department of Housing and Urban Development (accessed on Sep. 30, 2025) (online at [www.hud.gov/](http://www.hud.gov/)); *HUD Website Says 'Radical Left' Will Hurt America in Shutdown, Raising Ethics Concerns*, Washington Post (Sep. 30, 2025) (online at [www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/09/30/government-shutdown-politics-ethics/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/09/30/government-shutdown-politics-ethics/)).

holding our government hostage.”<sup>5</sup> Other agencies sent various messages to employees blaming Democrats, including describing the current government shutdown as, “Democrat-imposed,” “forced by Congressional Democrats,” and placing blame for the shutdown on “radical liberals in Congress” claiming that Democrats’ actions would stop critical programs.<sup>6</sup>

These kinds of blatant political messages from Executive Branch agencies appear to be in direct violation of the Hatch Act. Reporting also indicates that the wording of some of these partisan messages may have been deliberately crafted to attempt to avoid violating the Hatch Act, with a housing official asserting that the phrasing was deliberate and that “radical left” is an ideology and not a political party.<sup>7</sup> However, the coded language of some of these messages does not legitimize or allow blatant political activity. Other messages abandoned any pretense and simply engaged in blatant partisan politics.

The Administration’s statements make it abundantly clear that these messages are intended to circumvent the law, further highlighting the need for an immediate investigation. Federal agencies work for the American people, not a political party. Our committee is actively investigating other attempts by the Administration to leverage federal power to advance partisan political ends, including recent efforts to censor prominent critics of President Trump.<sup>8</sup> We believe that violations of the Hatch Act fit a pattern of abuse and politicization of Executive Branch agencies, which we will investigate fully. Violations of the law must be held accountable.

To ensure that the federal government works in the best interests of the American people, and not the interests of the Trump Administration or Republican Party, I request that you immediately investigate these likely violations of federal law. In addition, I request that you provide a staff-level briefing in which you provide detailed information on how you plan to address the Administration’s actions no later than October 16, 2025. This briefing will inform Oversight Committee Democrats’ work to investigate any and all cases in which federal power or resources are weaponized for political reasons.

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. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this

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<sup>5</sup> Scott Turner (@SecretaryTurner), X (Sep. 29, 2025) (online at <https://x.com/SecretaryTurner/status/1972823276012630116>).

<sup>6</sup> *Trump-Run Agencies Blame ‘Radical’ Left and Democrats for Shutdown*, New York Times (Sep. 30, 2025) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2025/09/30/us/politics/federal-agencies-government-shutdown.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/30/us/politics/federal-agencies-government-shutdown.html)); *Federal Agencies Blame Democrats for Looming Shutdown in Apparent Hatch Act Violation*, Guardian (Sep. 30, 2025) (online at [www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/sep/30/federal-agencies-democrats-shutdown](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/sep/30/federal-agencies-democrats-shutdown)).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

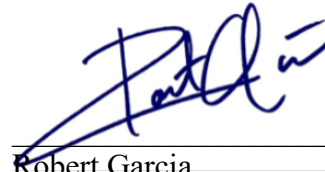
<sup>8</sup> Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and Ranking Member Maxwell Frost, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, Committee on Oversight and Accountability, to the Honorable Brendan Carr, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission (Sept. 18, 2025) (online at [oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-oversight.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-09-18.garcia-frost-to-carr-fcc-re-kimmel-live.pdf](https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-oversight.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-09-18.garcia-frost-to-carr-fcc-re-kimmel-live.pdf)).

The Honorable Jamieson Greer

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request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Garcia", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert Garcia  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman