

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>

March 18, 2026

The Honorable Joseph V. Cuffari
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, SW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Inspector General Cuffari:

We write with grave concern regarding public reporting on allegations of corruption and mismanagement at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Homeland Security are investigating serious allegations of high-level corruption, self-dealing, and mismanagement under the leadership of former Secretary Kristi Noem.¹ At the heart of these allegations sits Mr. Corey Lewandowski, who has used his close access to DHS leadership to wield outsized and undue influence over the Department.² We request the DHS Office of Inspector General immediately initiate an investigation into Mr. Lewandowski's role at DHS.

On February 11, 2025, Mr. Lewandowski entered DHS as a special government employee (SGE), which is a temporary, advisory status that cannot exceed 130 days in length within a 365-day period.³ Almost immediately, Mr. Lewandowski exercised outsized influence over DHS far beyond what an SGE is authorized to do, acting as a shadow chief of staff for now-outgoing Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem.⁴ Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Democrats previously demanded an accounting of Mr. Lewandowski's

¹ See *A Pilot Fired Over Kristi Noem's Missing Blanket and the Constant Chaos Inside DHS*, Wall Street Journal (Feb. 12, 2026) (online at www.wsj.com/politics/policy/chaos-kristi-noem-homeland-security-f095ac95).

² *Id.*

³ 18 U.S.C. § 202(a); *Corey Lewandowski Gets a Job In, of All Places, Kristi Noem's DHS*, Daily Beast (Feb. 12, 2025) (online at www.thedailybeast.com/corey-lewandowski-gets-a-job-in-of-all-places-kristi-noems-dhs/); *Paging Mr. Vance*, Politico (Feb. 11, 2025) (online at www.politico.com/newsletters/west-wing-playbook/2025/02/11/paging-mr-vance-00203681).

⁴ *How Corey Lewandowski Became Kristi Noem's Gatekeeper at DHS*, Wall Street Journal (Apr. 17, 2025) (online at www.wsj.com/politics/policy/how-corey-lewandowski-became-kristi-noems-gatekeeper-at-dhs-6c08d996).

service days and other information amid clear evidence that he violated the rules as an SGE.⁵ DHS has not provided the requested information to the Committee.

Mr. Lewandowski's alleged unauthorized involvement in DHS contracting decisions is a great cause for concern. Due to Mr. Lewandowski's status as an SGE, and DHS's refusal to release his financial disclosure information, he has had ample opportunity to continue pursuing his business interests in the private sector while simultaneously playing a key role in awarding DHS contracts.⁶ Mr. Lewandowski's outsized role and questionable actions have not gone unnoticed even within the Trump Administration; for instance, when the White House Counsel's Office opened an inquiry into Lewandowski's potential abuse of the special government role.⁷

On February 12, 2026, the Wall Street Journal detailed significant chaos in Secretary Noem's DHS, specifically highlighting the ways in which the Secretary has allegedly allowed Mr. Lewandowski to interfere with the operations of the Department.⁸ In July 2025, Secretary Noem implemented a new policy to give herself a more significant role in awarding DHS funds to government contractors by requiring all DHS contracts and grants over \$100,000 to be personally approved by her.⁹ The previous threshold requiring approval by the Secretary of Homeland Security was \$25 million.¹⁰ Subsequently, the Wall Street Journal reported that at Mr. Lewandowski's urging, DHS has moved away from continuing long-term contracts in favor of new contracts, most of which are subject to the \$100,000 approval policy.¹¹

⁵ Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Secretary Kristi Noem, Department of Homeland Security (Aug. 21, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-08-21.garcia-to-dhs-re-lewandowski.pdf>).

⁶ See *How Corey Lewandowski Became Kristi Noem's Gatekeeper at DHS*, Wall Street Journal (Apr. 17, 2025) (online at www.wsj.com/politics/policy/how-corey-lewandowski-became-kristi-noems-gatekeeper-at-dhs-6c08d996); Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Secretary Kristi Noem, Department of Homeland Security (Aug. 21, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-08-21.garcia-to-dhs-re-lewandowski.pdf>).

⁷ *A Pilot Fired Over Kristi Noem's Missing Blanket and the Constant Chaos Inside DHS*, Wall Street Journal (Feb. 12, 2026) (online at www.wsj.com/politics/policy/chaos-kristi-noem-homeland-security-f095ac95); *Top Noem Aide Entered Cockpit Before Firing Pilot Over Missing Blanket, Sources Say*, Reuters. (Feb. 23, 2026) (online at www.reuters.com/world/us/top-noem-aide-entered-cockpit-before-firing-pilot-over-missing-blanket-sources-2026-02-23/).

⁸ *How Corey Lewandowski Became Kristi Noem's Gatekeeper at DHS*, Wall Street Journal (Apr. 17, 2025) (online at www.wsj.com/politics/policy/how-corey-lewandowski-became-kristi-noems-gatekeeper-at-dhs-6c08d996).

⁹ *"Absolutely nuts": DHS Secretary to Review All Contract, Grant Awards over \$100k*, Federal News Network (June 18, 2025) (online at <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/acquisition-policy/2025/06/absolutely-nuts-dhs-secretary-to-review-all-contract-and-grant-awards-over-100k>).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *A Pilot Fired Over Kristi Noem's Missing Blanket and the Constant Chaos Inside DHS*, Wall Street Journal (Feb. 12, 2026) (online at www.wsj.com/politics/policy/chaos-kristi-noem-homeland-security-f095ac95).

We request the DHS OIG immediately open an investigation into Mr. Lewandowski's status as an SGE beginning in February 2025, including allegations of Mr. Lewandowski engaging in personnel decisions, contracting decisions, and other operations of DHS that fall outside the scope of an SGE's limited authority. We request a briefing on the OIG's plans in response to this request no later than April 1, 2026, alongside regular updates on any DHS obstruction of your work.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform also has legislative jurisdiction over the overall economy, efficiency, and management of government operations and activities, including federal procurement.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, under House Rule X, has jurisdiction over multiple DHS mission areas—including the Coast Guard and federal management of emergencies and natural disasters

The Committee on Homeland Security is the principal committee of the House of Representatives with jurisdiction for overall homeland security policy and has special oversight functions of "all Government activities relating to homeland security, including the interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of Homeland Security" under House Rule X.

Responses to this request for information may inform necessary legislative reforms on the topics covered in this letter. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform



Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure



Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Joseph V. Cuffari
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The Honorable Sam Graves, Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Andrew Garbarino, Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security