

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
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We write with grave concern regarding reports alleging serious misconduct at the highest levels of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).¹ At the center of these allegations sits Mr. Corey Lewandowski, who continues to use his access to DHS leadership to wield outsized and undue influence over the Department. We demand DHS preserve all communications and internal records concerning Mr. Lewandowski's role within the Department, as well as the Department's practices, policies, and procedures related to contracting, personnel, and the handling of classified materials. Any deviation from standard record-keeping will be treated as an attempt to hide or destroy evidence. In addition, we call on DHS to rescind its policy requiring all contracts and grants above \$100,000 to be approved personally by the Secretary, a policy that resulted in widespread delays in funding and mismanagement.²

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 *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.*; *Noem's Spending Rule Causes Delays at Homeland Security Department*, New York Times (Aug. 21, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/08/21/us/kristi-noem-spending-contracts-homeland-security-department.html).

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 On March 3, 2026, Secretary Noem reportedly misled Congress in her testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee by stating that Mr. Lewandowski has no role in approving DHS contracts; her sworn testimony contradicts publicly available evidence that Mr. Lewandowski personally approved a multimillion-dollar equipment contract at the agency last summer.⁷ 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.⁸

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.⁹ 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.¹⁰ The previous threshold requiring approval by the Secretary of Homeland Security was \$25 million.¹¹ Subsequently, the Wall Street Journal reported that at Mr.

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 *Kristi Noem Misled Congress About Top Aide's Role in DHS Contracts*, ProPublica (Mar. 4, 2026) (online at www.propublica.org/article/kristi-noem-dhs-misled-senate-judiciary-corey-lewandowski-contracts).

⁸ *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/).

⁹ *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).

¹⁰ *"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>).

¹¹ *Id.*

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.¹²

Recent reporting also highlights the significant challenges grant applicants and contractors face when navigating Secretary Noem's personal review practices. According to the Wall Street Journal, Republican officials in Governor Brian Kemp's office had to badger top DHS aids to get disaster aid for Georgia.¹³ In January 2026, a NOTUS article found that Secretary Noem was holding up more than \$1 billion in grant money that states use to prepare for future disasters.¹⁴ In January 2026, the New York Times reported that \$17 billion in disaster recovery funding was sitting on Secretary Noem's desk for approval.¹⁵ In September 2025, ProPublica reported that the Secretary fast-tracked more than \$11 million to rebuild a pier in Naples, Florida only after being contacted by a major financial donor—all while communities in Texas, North Carolina, and across the country were waiting for much-needed disaster aid.¹⁶ Given the significant public safety and emergency response role delegated to DHS, this level of apparent chaos and mismanagement risks further harm to disaster-affected communities.

To ensure that DHS effectively performs its critical national security functions on behalf of the American people, we call on DHS to rescind the \$100,000 approval policy and return to the prior approval threshold, given the clear risk of mismanagement, confusion, and self-dealing. We also demand DHS preserve all documents and communications concerning Mr. Lewandowski's role within the Department, as well as the Department's practices, policies, and procedures related to contracting, personnel, and the handling of classified materials, including, but not limited to, social media messages, Signal chats, and other private or personal communications pertaining to DHS matters. Any effort to hide, steal, alter, or destroy any documentation relating to Mr. Lewandowski, DHS contracting decisions under former Secretary Noem, and related subjects, will be seen as destruction of evidence.¹⁷

In addition, to ensure that Congress can perform its Constitutional oversight responsibilities and protect the integrity of DHS, we request that you provide the following by April 1, 2026:

¹² *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).

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Kristi Noem Is Holding Up More Than \$1 Billion in Hazard Mitigation Funds*, NOTUS (Jan. 28, 2026) (online at www.notus.org/trump-white-house/kristi-noem-hazard-mitigation-funds-hold-fema).

¹⁵ *Extra Scrutiny of FEMA Aid to States Has Created a \$17 Billion Bottleneck*, New York Times (Jan. 27, 2026) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/01/27/climate/fema-aid-kristi-noem.html).

¹⁶ *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).

¹⁷ Under 18 U.S.C. § 2071(b), any agency employee who “willfully and unlawfully” conceals, removes, mutilates, obliterates, destroys, or attempts any such action against a federal record, is subject to fine and/or imprisonment for up to three years.

1. All documents and communications concerning Mr. Lewandowski, including all financial disclosures and recusals due to conflicts of interest;
2. All documents and communications concerning Mr. Lewandowski's involvement in DHS personnel decisions, contracting decisions, and other DHS operations, including routing sheets bearing his name or title, policies concerning routing requests through Mr. Lewandowski, and all communications between Mr. Lewandowski and personnel associated with the United States DOGE Service;
3. All communications, including social media messages, Signal chats, and other official and personal communications, between Mr. Lewandowski and all employees, contractors, and advisors of DHS and component agencies regarding DHS personnel decisions, contracting decisions, and other DHS operations; and
4. All documents and communications concerning the decision to implement the Department's new \$100,000 approval requirement by the Secretary.

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 Sam Graves, Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Andrew Garbarino, Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security