

# 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>

May 5, 2025

The Honorable James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer:

We are appalled by the upcoming May 7, 2025, Delivering on Government Efficiency (DOGE) Subcommittee hearing titled “Unfair Play: Keeping Men Out of Women’s Sports,” which is a transparent overreach by the Subcommittee to give your Members an opportunity to attack transgender people. The DOGE Subcommittee has “oversight jurisdiction over the federal civil service, including compensation, classification, and benefits; federal property disposal; government reorganizations and operations, including transparency, performance, grants management, and accounting measures generally.”<sup>1</sup> The Subcommittee’s upcoming hearing on transgender athletes in sports strays so far from its purview that it makes crystal clear what many have known and feared: the DOGE Subcommittee is a mockery of Congress’s oversight responsibilities and is merely an ideological attack dog to drive division and distraction when MAGA extremists know they are losing.<sup>2</sup> In short, the DOGE Subcommittee is a total failure.

We are also troubled to see you have used the Oversight Committee’s subpoena power—and the first subpoena of this Congress—to target the volunteer board chair of USA Fencing, Damien Lehfeltdt, to compel his appearance at the hearing. It is remarkable the lengths to which the Republican Majority will go to distract from President Trump’s economic devastation and avoid conducting meaningful oversight for the American people. While we understand that you have chosen not to publicly scrutinize any of President Trump’s actions despite the demonstrable harm they are causing people across the country, using this Committee to bully a volunteer for a sports organization is beneath this Committee. We urge you to revoke this subpoena and to refocus the DOGE Subcommittee’s attention on the serious abuses of power by Elon Musk and the Trump Administration that it would clearly rather ignore.

Over the course of President Trump’s first 100 days in office, Elon Musk has used the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (also called DOGE, and purportedly the intended focus of the DOGE Subcommittee) to run a chainsaw through Americans’ data privacy;

---

<sup>1</sup> Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, *119<sup>th</sup> Congress Rules* (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/119th-Committee-Rules.pdf>) (accessed May 2, 2025).

<sup>2</sup> *An Unpopular President Continues to Push Radical Changes on the Country*, Washington Post (Apr. 27, 2025) (online at [www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/04/27/trump-polls-policies/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/04/27/trump-polls-policies/)).

hamstringing Americans' access to vital, lifesaving services; effectively dismantle congressionally authorized agencies; and inflict cruel and targeted harm to our nation's civil servants.<sup>3</sup> Now that Americans are infuriated about the reckless actions of President Trump, Elon Musk, and DOGE, it is clear you and your fellow Committee Republicans feel a need to double down on hateful rhetoric to dodge and distract from any discussion of how this Administration's policies are killing the economy and hurting communities across America.<sup>4</sup>

Last week's subpoena is also clearly disingenuous. On April 30, 2025, USA Fencing communicated its desire to comply with your requests and cooperate with your investigation, despite the transparently transphobic motivation and bad intent behind it. The attached letter from USA Fencing's attorneys explains that Mr. Lehfeldt is not authorized to speak on behalf of the organization. Instead, they requested that USA Fencing's chief executive officer be permitted to testify on behalf of the organization. Your insistence upon having Mr. Lehfeldt as a witness, and going so far as to issue a subpoena, exposes your aim to create a spectacle rather than engage in any productive oversight.

As you are apparently now open to using the Committee's subpoena power, we direct you to more than 100 letters Oversight Democrats sent to recipients across the Trump Administration demanding compliance with ongoing Democrat-led investigations<sup>5</sup> and to our compiled list of 100 Trump Administration conflicts of interest,<sup>6</sup> which detail significant concerns for which a subpoena would actually be useful in providing the meaningful oversight our Committee is mandated to conduct.

Sincerely,

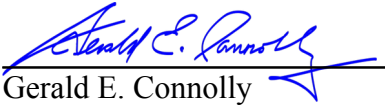
---

<sup>3</sup> *What has DOGE Done in Trump's First 100 Days?*, NPR (Apr. 28, 2025) (online at [www.npr.org/2025/04/28/nx-s1-5377445/doge-musk-trump-100-days](http://www.npr.org/2025/04/28/nx-s1-5377445/doge-musk-trump-100-days)); Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, *Press Release: Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene to Chair D.O.G.E.* (Jan. 17, 2025) (online at <https://greene.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=888>).

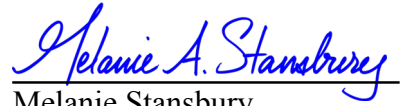
<sup>4</sup> *How Americans Feel About DOGE and Elon Musk*, New York Times (Apr. 22, 2025) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2025/04/22/polls/doge-elon-musk.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/22/polls/doge-elon-musk.html)).

<sup>5</sup> Letters from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Over 100 Recipients Across the Trump Administration (Apr. 30, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-oversight.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/100-letters-merged-letters-all-1%29.pdf>).

<sup>6</sup> Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Democrats, *Press Release: 100 Days of Corruption: Oversight Democrats Highlight 100 Conflicts of Interest as President Trump Clears the Path for Corruption* (Apr. 30, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/news/press-releases/100-days-corruption-oversight-democrats-highlight-100-conflicts-interest>).



Gerald E. Connolly  
Ranking Member



Melanie Stansbury  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Delivering  
on Government Efficiency



Emily Randall  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress




Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress




Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress



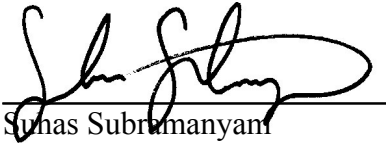
Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress




---

Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



---

Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



---

Wesley Bell  
Member of Congress



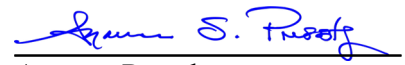
---

Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress




---

Dave Min  
Member of Congress



---

Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



---

Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

Enclosure

April 30, 2025

The Hon. Marjorie Taylor Greene  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency  
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

By Email

Re: *May 7, 2025 Hearing on Transgender Participation in Fencing*

Dear Chairwoman Greene:

We represent USA Fencing in connection with the Subcommittee's May 7 hearing on USA Fencing's transgender participation policy. USA Fencing is committed to cooperating with the Subcommittee on this important topic and in ensuring that the Subcommittee receives the information it seeks in connection with its inquiry.

To that end, we proposed to the Subcommittee Staff that USA Fencing's Chief Executive Officer, Phil Andrews, be permitted to testify as a witness at the upcoming hearing. As the head of USA Fencing, Mr. Andrews is involved with and oversees all aspects of USA Fencing's operations as well as development of USA Fencing's policies, including its transgender participation policy. Mr. Andrews thus can speak on behalf of the organization on the issues central to the Subcommittee's hearing.

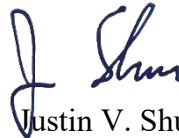
We understand, however, that the Subcommittee has declined to hear from Mr. Andrews. Instead, it insists that the Chair of USA Fencing's Board of Directors, Damien Lehfelddt, appear. It appears that the interest in Mr. Lehfelddt arises in part from social media posts on this topic made by him in his personal capacity – not on behalf of USA Fencing.

We respectfully request that the Subcommittee reconsider. Unlike Mr. Andrews, Mr. Lehfelddt is not an employee of USA Fencing. Rather, he is one member of a twelve-person board of directors. His roles as Chair and board member are volunteer positions. He thus cannot speak on behalf of USA Fencing in the same manner as Mr. Andrews and is not responsible for day-to-day operations of USA Fencing. If the Subcommittee is interested in obtaining information from

USA Fencing on this important issue – as opposed to questioning a volunteer board member about his personal views – Mr. Andrews is prepared to appear on behalf of the organization.

Of course, if the Subcommittee continues to insist on Mr. Lehfeldt's appearance – and issues a subpoena as the Subcommittee Staff suggested – we will accept service, and Mr. Lehfeldt will comply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Justin V. Shur". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a cursive "Shur".

Justin V. Shur

Eric R. Nitz

Lauren M. Weinstein

Bonnie St. Charles

Cc: The Hon. Melanie Stansbury