

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074  
MINORITY (202) 225-6061  
<https://oversight.house.gov>

September 23, 2025

Ms. Michelle L. Anderson  
Acting Inspector General for Audit  
Performing the Duties of the Inspector General  
Social Security Administration  
6401 Security Boulevard, Suite 300  
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Ms. Anderson:

The Social Security Administration (SSA) houses a database with the sensitive personal information of more than 300 million people across the country—phone numbers, addresses, places and dates of birth, Social Security numbers, and other data that can be used to steal the identities of every American. A senior and highly credible whistleblower has come forward with an alarming report that members of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), while embedded at the Social Security Administration (SSA), copied this entire database to an unsecure cloud server, evading security and oversight measures required by law. This egregious escalation is part of DOGE’s pattern of information technology malpractice including “apparent systemic data security violations, uninhibited administrative access to highly sensitive production environments, and potential violations of internal SSA security protocols and federal privacy laws.”<sup>1</sup> The severity of these allegations, which threaten the American people’s privacy, financial security, and access to vital benefits, warrants your immediate investigation.

In his complaint, the whistleblower, who until recently served as SSA’s Chief Data Officer (CDO), lays out how individuals working for DOGE showed repeated disregard for responsible cybersecurity practices and the rule of law at SSA, pressuring career employees to provide access to SSA data even after a federal judge ordered that DOGE representatives lose access to this information. DOGE representatives allegedly went on to expose every American’s Social Security data in a cloud environment that lacked the necessary cybersecurity protections and auditable access records needed to determine who had accessed or edited this sensitive data. Non-political employees at SSA repeatedly highlighted the unacceptable risks of the DOGE team’s requests, including that they failed to demonstrate the required security protocols; that they put Americans’ private information at risk of unauthorized access that could cause “catastrophic impact to SSA beneficiaries and SSA programs;” and that DOGE employees could

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Government Accountability Project to Chair and Ranking Members Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Senate Committee on Finance, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House Ways and Means Committee, and Acting Special Counsel (Aug. 26, 2025) (online at <https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/a9f2afd18a79e330/b181d62a-full.pdf>).

grant outside access to this sensitive data or employ software or programs not authorized for government use—all without any oversight or accountability.<sup>2</sup> SSA's chief information officer, Aram Moghaddassi, as well as a DOGE-aligned special advisor, Michael Russo, allegedly approved the DOGE team members' high-risk requests over the objections of career civil servants and in potential violation of federal law, including the Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA), the Privacy Act, and the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.<sup>3</sup>

The whistleblower is a decorated veteran with 22 years of service in the U.S. Navy and has an extensive background in data architecture and information technology. As SSA's CDO, he had knowledge of the entire architecture of the agency and understanding of the legal and cybersecurity requirements for managing Social Security data. He repeatedly warned DOGE employees of the risks of their actions and denied requests for suspicious activities but was overridden.<sup>4</sup>

This report is just the latest in a series of grave failures to protect Americans' privacy and security. The Trump Administration has exposed critical servers at our nuclear security laboratories, every federal employee's personal information, and agencies across the executive branch to potential cyber-attack.<sup>5</sup> DOGE's repeated failures to follow federal laws that protect Americans' privacy and security, paired with Republicans' steep cuts to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency budget and the Administration's abysmal operational security practices, expose every American to unprecedented cyber risk.<sup>6</sup> To ensure Congress can perform its statutorily required oversight role and effectively safeguard Americans' sensitive personal

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<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 552a; 18 U.S.C. § 1030; U.S.C. § 3554.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> See Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ranking Member Shontel Brown, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, and Ranking Member Melanie Stansbury, Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency, to President Donald J. Trump (Feb. 25, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-oversight.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-02-25.%20GEC%20Brown%20Stansbury%20to%20President%20Trump%20re.%20DOGE%20Cyber%20Issues.pdf>); Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Mr. Charles Ezell, Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management (Feb. 22, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-oversight.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-02-22.GEC%20to%20OPM-%20Ezell%20re%20Musk%20Email.pdf>); Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Mr. Charles Ezell, Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management (Feb. 25, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-oversight.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-2-25.GEC%20to%20OPM-Ezell%20-%20CIO%20SES%20Clean.pdf>).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*; *Top U.S. Cyber Agency Keeps Shrinking Under Trump 2.0*, Axios (July 15, 2025) (online at [www.axios.com/2025/07/15/cisa-congress-budget-workforce-cuts](https://www.axios.com/2025/07/15/cisa-congress-budget-workforce-cuts)); Letter from Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to Vice President JD Vance, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, National Security Advisor Michael Waltz, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency John Ratcliffe (Mar. 26, 2025) (online at [https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-oversight.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-03-26-dem-members-to-agencies-re-atlantic-signal\\_0.pdf](https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-oversight.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-03-26-dem-members-to-agencies-re-atlantic-signal_0.pdf)).

information, I request that you investigate the following topics and provide a staff-level briefing by October 6, 2025:

1. All attempts by individuals either previously or currently associated with DOGE to access SSA Numerical Identification System (NUMIDENT) data;
2. Any evidence that DOGE employees circumvented or ignored judicial rulings regarding access to SSA data;
3. All communications between SSA employees either previously or currently associated with DOGE and civil servants regarding data access at SSA;
4. Documentation that any individual previously or currently associated with DOGE who has accessed NUMIDENT data since March 24, 2025, has completed standard training, a background check, and a detail agreement;
5. All individuals either previously or currently associated with DOGE who may have proposed, created, approved, or accessed new systems to house a copy of SSA's NUMIDENT database;
6. All requests by individuals either previously or currently associated with DOGE to bypass standard procedures and protocols regarding the protection of SSA's NUMIDENT data;
7. The "Risk Acceptance Request Form" allegedly provided to Mr. Aram Moghaddassi on July 12, 2025;
8. The "Provisional Authorization to Operate" allegedly authorized by Mr. Moghaddassi on July 15, 2025, for the NUMIDENT project, and all legal analyses and risk assessments conducted to inform the Authorization;
9. An analysis of the costs to the American public of a potential breach of NUMIDENT data, including the cost to taxpayers for the reissuance of Social Security numbers for every individual in America who possesses one.

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 request.

Ms. Michelle L. Anderson  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Garcia', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Garcia  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman