

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 22, 2026

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Arne B. Baker
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Acting Inspector General
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Dear Inspectors General Berthiaume, Cuffari, Hill, Baker, and Hull:

We write to express our deep concern about the diversion of critical federal law enforcement personnel and resources away from investigating and prosecuting white-collar crime and toward advancing President Trump's immigration enforcement agenda. We ask that your office conduct an evaluation of the scope of this diversion and its impact.

When white-collar criminal enforcement is neglected, the American public pays the price. Ordinary people are left more vulnerable to fraud schemes, market manipulation, predatory financial practices, and corruption that threaten their savings, retirement accounts, and financial security — while the wealthiest bend the rules and exploit a weakened enforcement system that no longer holds them accountable.

The failure to enforce the law against corporate criminals has been a hallmark of the Trump Administration.¹ Time and again, President Trump and his administration have let convicted corporate criminals off the hook by wiping out fines and penalties,² eliminating efforts to enforce consumer and banking laws,³ and pardoning fraudsters and con-men under the flimsiest of

¹ Public Citizen, "Tracker: Corporate Criminal Enforcement at Risk," last updated September 5, 2025, <https://www.citizen.org/article/corporate-enforcement-trump-tracker/>.

² *Id.*; Democratic Staff Memorandum, "President Trump's Pardons Cheat Victims out of an Astounding \$1.3 Billion in Restitution and Fines, Allowing Fraudsters, Tax Evaders, Drug Traffickers to Keep Ill-Gotten Gains," June 17, 2025, p. 1, <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-06-17.dem-memo-re-%241.3b-cost-of-trump-pardons.pdf>.

pretenses.⁴ According to one estimate, President Trump’s pardons have wiped away “approximately \$1.3 billion in restitution and fines owed to [crime victims] and American taxpayers.”⁵

Exacerbating this lack of accountability, since January 2025, the Trump Administration has diverted over 25,000 federal law enforcement personnel to immigration enforcement.⁶ Many of those agents had been dedicated to combatting white-collar crimes — including fraud, tax evasion, money laundering, and more.

According to reports, thousands of agents from teams responsible for white-collar criminal investigations at the Department of Justice (DOJ), Treasury Department, State Department, and more have been reassigned to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), primarily to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to execute the President’s civil immigration dragnet. For example:

- **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI):** Nearly one-quarter of FBI agents nationwide — and up to 40 percent in the largest field offices — have been reassigned to support ICE enforcement operations.⁷ These agents, once dedicated to public corruption, financial fraud, cybercrime, and complex corporate investigations, are now serving on civil immigration details and ICE facility protection assignments.⁸

³ Better Markets, “The Demise of Consumer Financial Protection Regulations Under Trump’s CFPB,” Brady Williams, July 23 2025, <https://bettermarkets.org/analysis/the-demise-of-consumer-financial-protection-regulations-under-trumps-cfpb/>; *see also* Sidley Austin LLP, “Consumer Financial Enforcement Under Trump 47 — The U.S. Federal Trade Commission in Focus,” Thomas G. Ward, Benjamin M. Mundel, and Jeremy Rozansky, May 12 2025, <https://www.sidley.com/en/insights/newsupdates/2025/05/consumer-financial-enforcement-under-trump-47-the-us-federal-trade-commission-in-focus>.

⁴ Axios, “Trump Pardons Criminals with MAGA Credentials or Big Money,” Avery Lotz, May 28, 2025, <https://www.axios.com/2025/05/28/trump-pardons-chrisley-walczak-jenkins>; *see also* The Guardian, “Trump White-Collar Criminal Pardons cost public \$1BN, Says Ex-DOJ Official,” Anna Betts, May 2, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/may/02/trump-pardons-cost-liz-oyer>.

⁵ Democratic Staff Memorandum, “President Trump’s Pardons Cheat Victims out of an Astounding \$1.3 Billion in Restitution and Fines, Allowing Fraudsters, Tax Evaders, Drug Traffickers to Keep Ill-Gotten Gains,” June 17, 2025, p. 1, <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-06-17.dem-memo-re-%241.3b-cost-of-trump-pardons.pdf>; Axios, “Trump’s pardons cost the U.S. \$1.3 billion, per House Dem report,” Andrew Solender, June 17, 2025, <https://www.axios.com/2025/06/17/trump-pardons-cost-democrats-report>.

⁶ CATO Institute, “ICE Has Diverted Over 25,000 Officers from Their Jobs,” David J. Bier, September 3, 2025, <https://www.cato.org/blog/ice-has-diverted-over-25000-officers-their-jobs>; *see also* ABC News, “DHS Allows US Marshals, DEA and ATF to Carry Out Immigration Enforcement,” Luke Barr, January 23, 2025, <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/dhs-allows-us-marshals-dea-atf-carry-immigration/story?id=118022307>; CBS News, “Bondi Directs FBI, DEA, Others to Guard ICE Facilities,” Joe Walsh, September 30, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bondi-federal-agents-doj-ice-facilities-trump/>.

⁷ The Washington Post, “A Quarter of FBI Agents Are Assigned to Immigration Enforcement, Per FBI Data,” October 8, 2025, Perry Stein, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/10/08/fbi-agents-reassigned-immigration/>.

⁸ The Marshall Project, “For Trump Administration, Fighting Crime Takes a Backseat to Immigration Arrest,” Beth Schwartzapfel, October 4, 2025, <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2025/10/04/federal-government-trump-ice-crime>.

- **Internal Revenue Service (IRS):** More than 1,700 IRS Criminal Investigation employees have been reassigned to ICE as of September 2025, compared to just 250 employees as of June 2025.⁹ In April 2025, the IRS and DHS formalized a data-sharing Memorandum of Understanding granting ICE access to certain taxpayer return information — including names, addresses, and tax years — to support immigration enforcement, a potentially unlawful departure from the longstanding IRS confidentiality policy,¹⁰ and potentially further drawing from IRS resources.
- **State Department Diplomatic Security Service (DSS):** DSS agents traditionally focus on protecting U.S. diplomatic missions, investigating passport and visa fraud, coordinating sensitive international investigations, and investigating crimes involving foreign missions and consular services.¹¹ The CATO Institute reported that around 300 DSS agents have now been detailed to ICE operations.¹²
- **Homeland Security Investigations (HSI):** HSI has historically led criminal investigations into international money laundering, financial fraud, cyber-enabled financial crimes, and intellectual property theft.¹³ But now HSI has reassigned a whopping 90 percent of its workforce to ICE’s Enforcement and Removal Operations, according to CATO’s estimates.¹⁴
- **DOJ Public Integrity Section (PIN) & National Security Division (NSD):** PIN oversees the investigation and prosecution of public corruption cases involving elected

⁹ Government Executive, “Report: Federal Agencies Have Deployed Nearly 33,000 Employees to Assist ICE,” Eric Katz, September 4, 2025, <https://www.govexec.com/management/2025/09/report-federal-agencies-have-deployed-nearly-33000-employees-assist-ice/407907/>.

¹⁰ National Public Radio, “The IRS Finalizes a Deal to Share Tax Information With Immigration Authorities,” Joel Rose, April 8, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/04/08/g-s1-59056/irs-dhs-information-sharing-deal-immigrants-tax-records>; *see also* U.S. Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, “Memorandum of Understanding Between The U.S. Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service and The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement for the Exchange of Information for Nontax Criminal Enforcement,” <https://embed.documentcloud.org/documents/25889274-mou-0408/?embed=1>; NBC News, “Judge hits pause on IRS sharing taxpayer information with ICE,” Dareh Gregorian and Raquel Coronell Uribe, November 21, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/judge-issues-order-blocking-irs-sharing-taxpayer-information-ice-rcna245262>.

¹¹ WIRED, “State Department Agents Are Now Working With Ice on Immigration,” Vittoria Elliott, September 4, 2025, <https://www.wired.com/story/state-department-dss-agents-ice-immigration/>; *see also* U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, “Law Enforcement,” <https://2021-2025.state.gov/law-enforcement/>.

¹² CATO Institute, “ICE Has Diverted Over 25,000 Officers from Their Jobs,” David J. Bier, September 3, 2025, <https://www.cato.org/blog/ice-has-diverted-over-25000-officers-their-jobs>; *see also* Government Executive, “Report: Federal Agencies Have Deployed Nearly 33,000 Employees to Assist ICE,” Eric Katz, September 4, 2025, <https://www.govexec.com/management/2025/09/report-federal-agencies-have-deployed-nearly-33000-employees-assist-ice/407907/>.

¹³ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, “Intellectual Property Theft and Commercial Fraud,” <https://www.ice.gov/about-ice/hsi/investigate/intellectual-property-commercial-fraud>; *see also* Statement of Katrina Berger to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, “Oversight of Homeland Security Investigations,” September 18, 2024, pp. 2-3, <https://www.congress.gov/118/meeting/house/117654/witnesses/HHRG-118-JU08-Wstate-BergerK-20240918.pdf>.

¹⁴ CATO Institute, “ICE Has Diverted Over 25,000 Officers from Their Jobs,” David J. Bier, September 3, 2025, <https://www.cato.org/blog/ice-has-diverted-over-25000-officers-their-jobs>.

officials, judges, and other government employees.¹⁵ Yet under President Trump, the Section has been gutted — shrinking from 36 career prosecutors to just two¹⁶ — and the head of PIN was reassigned to the DOJ’s new “Office of Sanctuary Cities Enforcement” task force. Similarly, two veteran prosecutors in NSD, responsible for investigating sanctions violations and other offenses, were also reassigned to the sanctuary cities task force.¹⁷ Many lawyers placed on the sanctuary cities team were sidelined, given only menial tasks and, with little else to do, “completed jigsaw puzzles and streamed television shows” after being removed from their jobs investigating serious white-collar crimes and other offenses.¹⁸

- **US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS):** USPIS, the law enforcement arm of the Postal Service, normally investigates mail fraud and other crimes. But this year, some Postal Service agents have assisted ICE in locating individuals for immigration enforcement.¹⁹

Taken together, these moves represent a massive diversion of specialized law-enforcement talent away from criminal financial investigations and prosecutions and toward civil immigration enforcement.

As a result of these diversions, white-collar investigative teams are understaffed, under-resourced, and in some cases gutted. Complex, multi-year investigations into white-collar crimes depend on continuity of staff and specialized expertise.²⁰ By reassigning agents who worked on white-collar crime and corruption cases to immigration, critical investigations into fraud, corruption, and cyber-financial crimes have been sidelined or shelved.²¹ For example, one DOJ investigation into a financial services firm has reportedly stalled in part because investigators were “pulled into immigration matters,”²² while the FBI’s white-collar crime squad in Houston was reportedly “decimated in 2025 by orders to put dozens of their agents onto immigration

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, “Public Integrity Section (PIN),” <https://www.justice.gov/criminal/criminal-pin>.

¹⁶ NOTUS, “The Justice Department Had 36 Lawyers Fighting Corruption Full-Time. Under Trump, Its Down to Two,” Jose Pagliery, September 22, 2025, <https://www.notus.org/courts/doj-public-integrity>; *see also* Bloomberg Law, “DOJ Public Corruption Head Quits, Avoiding Trump Transfer (1),” Ben Penn, January 27, 2025, <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/doj-public-corruption-head-quits-after-sanctuary-cities-transfer>.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ CBS News, “Inside the Justice Dept. ‘rubber room,’ where veteran lawyers do jigsaw puzzles and stream shows to pass time,” Daniel Klaidman and Jacob Rosen, June 11, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/justice-dept-rubber-room-lawyers-do-jigsaw-puzzles-stream-shows/>.

¹⁹ Washington Post, “USPS Law Enforcement Assists Trump ‘Mass Deportation’ Effort, Sources and Records Show,” Jacob Bogage and Hannah Natanson, April 29, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/04/29/usps-immigration-trump-deportations/>; *see also* Letter from House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to USPIS, June 11, 2025, <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-oversight.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-06-11-lynch-et-al-to-postal-service-and-uspis-re-immigration.pdf>.

²⁰ Statement of Robert S. Mueller to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, June 21, 2002, https://irp.fas.org/congress/2002_hr/062102mueller.html.

²¹ The Marshall Project, “For Trump Administration, Fighting Crime Takes a Backseat to Immigration Arrest,” Beth Schwartzapfel, October 4, 2025, <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2025/10/04/federal-government-trump-ice-crime>; *see also* Reuters, “FBI Ordered to Prioritize Immigration, as DOJ Scales Back White Collar Cases,” Sarah N. Lynch, May 12, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/fbi-ordered-prioritize-immigration-cases-over-white-collar-crime-people-familiar-2025-05-12/>.

enforcement.”²³ Already, we are seeing how other diversions of agents at DOJ appear to have resulted in a decline in criminal referrals for prosecution of non-immigration offenses.²⁴

Several agencies are already experiencing the consequences of these diversions. For example, the mass reassignment of HSI agents to immigration removal operations means that “critical threats could go uninvestigated,” including “Dark Web financial schemes, Iranian and Chinese nuclear traffickers, Russian organized crime, [and] trade fraud.”²⁵ Likewise, diverting State Department resources to ICE weakens cross-border investigations into corruption, fraud, and international financial crimes.²⁶ At the same time, the diversion of FBI and DOJ personnel from white-collar units has caused delays and the deprioritization of complex financial crime cases such as public corruption, corporate fraud, and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) prosecutions — undermining the federal government’s ability to hold powerful actors accountable.²⁷

Moreover, at the IRS, the diversion of agents inflicts a double harm: it not only allows wealthy tax evaders and criminal enterprises to escape accountability but also deprives the federal government of the revenue needed to sustain broader law-enforcement operations. The IRS’s Criminal Investigation team is widely regarded as one of the most cost-effective units in federal law enforcement;²⁸ last year, on a budget of less than \$800 million, that unit recovered over \$9 billion in fraudulent proceeds.²⁹ But now, more than 1,700 IRS Criminal Investigation agents and staff have been detailed to ICE operations, severely undermining the agency’s ability to

²² Wall Street Journal, “Trump Administration Upends Prosecution of White-Collar Crime,” Dave Michaels, Sadie Gurman, Aruna Viswanatha, December 31, 2025, <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/white-collar-crime-enforcement-trump-5f3ca604?st=XwPirC/>.

²³ New York Times, “Depleted and Distracted, Justice Dept. Staff Fear Losing Focus on Potential Threats,” Michael S. Schmidt, Devlin Barrett, Jonah E. Bromwich, January 7, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/07/us/justice-department-threats-cyberattacks-terrorism.html>.

²⁴ Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, “June 2025 Sees Declines in Federal Criminal Referrals by ATF Agent and DEA Agents,” August 5, 2025, <https://tracreports.org/reports/764/>.

²⁵ USA Today, “Thousands of DHS Agents Shift to Deportation Instead of Drugs, Weapons, and Human Trafficking,” Josh Meyer, February 14, 2025, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/02/14/dhs-agents-deportation-not-trafficking/78641666007/>; see also Reuters, “Exclusive: Thousands of Agents diverted to Trump Immigration Crackdown,” Brad Heath, Joshua Snyder, Marisa Taylor, Sarah N. Lynch, and Mike Spector, March 22, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/thousands-agents-diverted-trump-immigration-crackdown-2025-03-22/>; Niskanen Center, “The Impact of Reassigning 6,700 Federal Workers to Immigration,” Owen Tritt, August 5, 2025, <https://www.niskanencenter.org/the-impact-of-reassigning-6700-federal-workers-to-immigration/>; Center for American Progress, “Trump’s Rash Immigration Actions Place Cruelty and Spectacle Above Security,” Debu Gandhi, Ben Greenho, and Nick Wilson, February 27, 2025, <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/trumps-rash-immigration-actions-place-cruelty-and-spectacle-above-security/>.

²⁶ U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, “Serves as the U.S. embassy’s Law Enforcement Liaison to the Host Nation,” <https://www.state.gov/serves-as-the-u-s-embassys-law-enforcement-liaison-to-the-host-nation>.

²⁷ The Associated Press, “The FBI is Disbanding One of its Public Corruption Squads in its Washington Office, AP Sources Say,” Eric Tucker, May 15, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/fbi-public-corruption-squad-trump-0478a9f5884b443e1f0403a1f6dad49e>; see also Reuters, “US Team Investigating Foreign Bribery Dwindles, Sources Say,” Andrew Goudsward, Sarah N. Lynch, and Chris Prentice, June 9, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/us-team-investigating-foreign-bribery-dwindles-sources-say-2025-06-09/>.

²⁸ Forbes, “Starving The Watchdog—Budget Cuts To IRS-CI Undercut Crime Fighting,” Andrew Leahey, June 23, 2025, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewleahey/2025/06/23/starving-the-watchdog-budget-cuts-to-irs-ci-undercut-crime-fighting/>.

²⁹ *Id.*

investigate tax evasion, offshore accounts, cryptocurrency fraud, and money laundering.³⁰ That means less revenue to fund the federal government's enforcement functions and a greater risk that honest taxpayers will shoulder the burden left by tax evaders.

In practice, these diversions also undermine deterrence: when white-collar criminals believe that federal enforcement units lack the resources or continuity to pursue long-term cases, they may become more emboldened to take risks that endanger markets, taxpayers, and public institutions.

The safety of American families and the integrity of our financial system depend on restoring law enforcement's capacity to investigate and prosecute white-collar crime rather than simply turning the federal government into an immigration enforcement machine.

In order to carry out our legislative responsibilities regarding enforcement of the nation's criminal laws, we ask that your offices conduct an evaluation of these diversions. This evaluation should include answers to the following questions:


1. How many law enforcement personnel at your agency have been reassigned to ICE or other parts of DHS since January 20, 2025? Please provide a breakdown by bureau, division, field office, and duration of the reassignment.
2. Excluding any work done since January 2025 on immigration matters, how many white-collar crime cases (including but not limited to financial fraud, corruption, FCPA, and money-laundering cases) have been opened since January 20, 2025? How many have been closed or suspended? How many have been charged?
 - a. Please describe what types of white-collar crime cases have been charged, opened, closed, or suspended.
 - b. Please provide the number of white-collar crime cases charged, opened, closed, or suspended in FY 2023 and FY 2024 as points of reference.
 - c. How many white-collar crime cases have been closed, delayed, or suspended due to personnel shortages, following diversions of personnel from the relevant agency to immigration-related functions?
 - d. How many white-collar crime cases have been closed, delayed, or suspended due to other resource shortages, following resource diversions from the relevant agency to immigration-related functions?
3. For Offices of Inspectors General other than the DOJ OIG: excluding any work done since January 2025 on immigration matters, please provide the number of prosecution recommendations your agency made to the DOJ, the number of investigations closed without a referral for prosecution, the information or indictments DOJ filed, and the number of defendants sentenced, in or after FY 2025 compared to FY 2023 and FY 2024.

³⁰ Government Executive, "Report: Federal Agencies Have Deployed Nearly 33,000 Employees to Assist ICE," Eric Katz, September 4, 2025, <https://www.govexec.com/management/2025/09/report-federal-agencies-have-deployed-nearly-33000-employees-assist-ice/407907/>.


4. What internal assessments has your agency conducted to evaluate the impacts of diversion of law enforcement resources? Has your agency taken, or does it plan to take, action consistent with the findings of these assessments?
5. Has your office received complaints or whistleblower disclosures about these diversions? If so, how many, and what issues were raised?
6. What safeguards exist to ensure that your agency continues to meet its statutory white-collar crime obligations despite these diversions?

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.


Sincerely,




Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator




Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator




Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



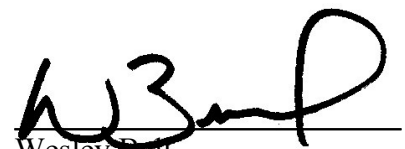
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



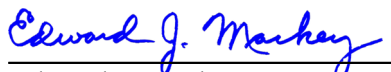
Dave Min
Member of Congress




Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator





Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

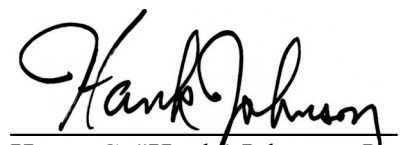

Andy Kim
United States Senator

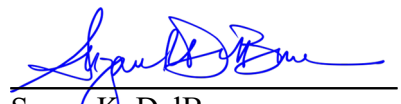

Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator


Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress


J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

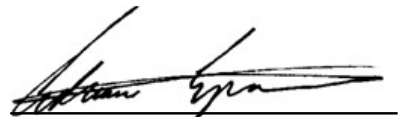

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress


Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress


Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress


Seth Moulton
Member of Congress


Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress


Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress




John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



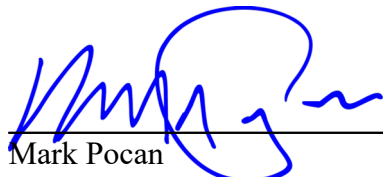
Ted W. Lieu
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Jerrold Nadler
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Lloyd Doggett
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Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress