

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2025

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Kristi Noem  
Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane SW  
Washington, DC 20528

Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale  
United States Postal Inspection Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, DC 20260

President Trump, Secretary Noem, and Chief Inspector Barksdale:

We are writing to express our deep concerns regarding recent reporting that the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPS) is being diverted from its primary functions in order to assist the Department of Homeland Security in its efforts to deport immigrants using data from mail and packages.<sup>1</sup> Attempts to use collected mailing data for such clearly politicized purposes are major violations of the American public's privacy and interfere with the organization's mission of maintaining the efficacy and safety of the mail system. We, along with our constituents, are gravely concerned by the reported misuse of data and demand you reverse course on these actions and keep the USPS out of immigration enforcement.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) is the federal law enforcement arm of the USPS, tasked with supporting and protecting the USPS, its employees, infrastructure, and customers by enforcing the laws that defend the United States' mail system from illegal or dangerous use. Core functions include fighting mail fraud, assaults on postal workers, and the use of the mail for drug distribution. Notably, the first Trump Administration sought to curb funding for the US Postal Inspection Service after it was instrumental in bringing mail fraud charges against Trump advisor Steve Bannon.<sup>2</sup>

In recent years, chronic underfunding and politicization of USPS functions have seriously restricted the activities of the Inspection Service. The USPIS has cut back on staff and jurisdiction, even as crime against mail carriers is on the rise - having the USPIS take on additional tasks at this time drastically limits their ability to protect their own employees.<sup>3</sup>

Of equal concern is the impact that using this specialized policing force for broad-scale immigration enforcement, rather than particularized criminal investigations, will have on the reliability and privacy of the US Mail.

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<sup>1</sup> Bogage, Jacob, and Hannah Natanson. 2025. "[USPS Law Enforcement Assists Trump 'Mass Deportation' Effort, Sources and Records Show](#)." The Washington Post. April 29, 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Durkee, Alison. 2020. "[Postal Service, under Attack by Trump, Investigated and Arrested Steve Bannon](#)." Forbes, August 20, 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Heckman, Jory. 2022. "[USPS 'Actively Defunding' Its Police Force amid Spike in Postal Crime, Associations Warn Lawmakers](#)." Federal News Network - Helping Feds Meet Their Mission. Federal News Network. September 8, 2022

Using the U.S. Postal Service requires people to share address data, credit card numbers, IP addresses, and other critical financial information that could result in real harm if made public. Millions of Americans depend on the reliability and privacy of the USPS to receive personal items such as tax documents, medication, and mail-in ballots. It is deeply concerning that immigration enforcement agencies have access to the USPS's sensitive data systems, and the use of the USPS to facilitate deportations raises serious constitutional and civil liberties concerns. The U.S. Postal Service should not be operating as a surveillance arm of federal immigration enforcement.

The recent threats to disband the USPS Board of Governors, fire thousands of USPS employees, and fold the USPS into the Department of Commerce reportedly pressured the Inspection Service to abandon its primary mission in favor of assisting your administration's mass deportation agenda.<sup>4</sup> It seems apparent that the Inspection Service is being forced to participate, despite its objections, to placate the Administration and avoid the fate of other critical agencies like the Department of Education or the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.<sup>5</sup> Congress established the USPS as an independent, non-political agency. The disregard for the USPS's critical independent status and the diversion of resources away from its core functions raise significant concerns regarding the separation of powers as enumerated in the Constitution.

As Members of Congress, we demand that you terminate any general access by the Department of Homeland Security or any immigration enforcement agency to USPS's broad data systems. We also ask for a commitment from your administration to refrain from any further actions to undermine the Postal Service's critical role as an independent, depoliticized agency of the federal government.

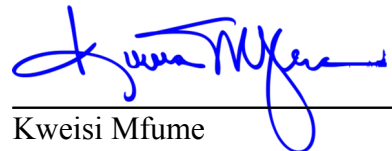
We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your swift response.

Sincerely,



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



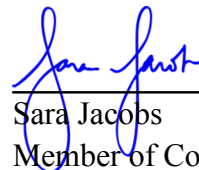
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Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



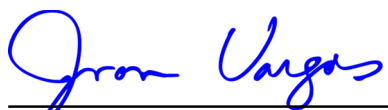
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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress

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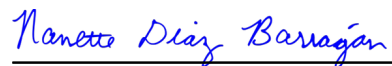
<sup>4</sup> Bogage, Jacob. 2025. "[Trump Expected to Take Control of USPS, Fire Postal Board, Officials Say.](#)" The Washington Post. February 21, 2025; Burt, Sharelle. 2025. "[Insiders 'Nervous' as USPS Teams up with Trump Administration to Combat Illegal Immigration.](#)" Black Enterprise. April 30, 2025.

<sup>5</sup> Binkley, Collin, and Chris Megerian. 2025. "[Trump to Order a Plan to Shut down the Education Department.](#)" AP News. March 19, 2025; Hernandez, Joe. 2025. "[The Trump Administration Has Stopped Work at the CFPB. Here's What the Agency Does.](#)" NPR. February 10, 2025.



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



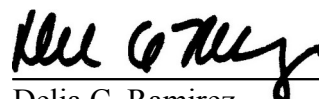
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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



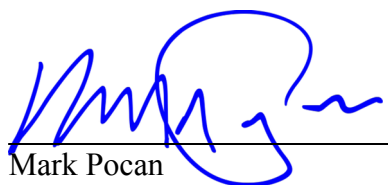
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Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress




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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



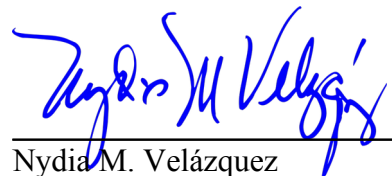
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



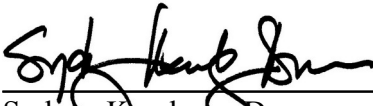
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Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager Dove  
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



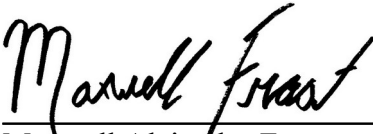
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress




Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress




Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



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Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



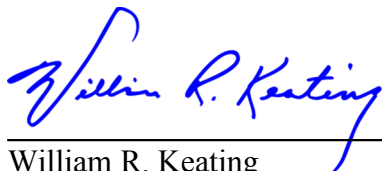
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David Scott  
Member of Congress



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Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



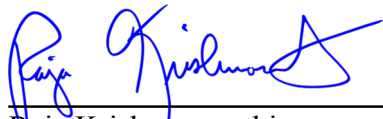
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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



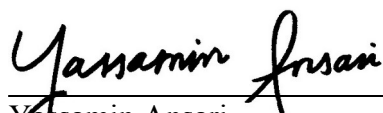
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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



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Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress