

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries:

We, on behalf of 119 national organizations, write to you with grave concerns about the extent to which Elon Musk and representatives of the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) have gained access to critical government operations, systems, and information without authorization. There have been multiple reports over the last two weeks of Musk's team illegally interfering and disrupting essential government operations; obtaining access to systems that contain sensitive private information of millions of Americans; and obtaining access to Treasury Department systems responsible for federal payments. We demand that Congress immediately investigate Elon Musk and DOGE activities to ensure that Americans' private, personal information have not been compromised and that operating systems continue to function without disruption. We further demand that Congress determine whether Elon Musk or his representatives at DOGE have violated the law by accessing protected or classified information without authorization or violated the temporary restraining orders (TROs) issued by district courts in [Rhode Island](#) and [Washington, D.C.](#) – and reaffirmed by the [extension](#) of the temporary restraining order on February 3, 2025 in D.C. by U.S District Judge AliKhan – in response to the January 27, 2025, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) [memo](#) attempting to freeze or cut funding appropriated by Congress.

Millions of Americans are likely to be harmed if Elon Musk and DOGE are allowed to continue to infiltrate and take over critical government systems. The risks include missed Social Security payments to seniors, disruptions to Medicaid or Medicare, delays in pay to federal employees or businesses, to name only a few of the devastating ways Americans may be affected. There is also a risk of private or classified information being leaked or misused for political purposes or to forward the personal interests of Elon Musk. We demand that you take action immediately to protect your constituents, our democracy, and the rule of law.

Elon Musk, an unelected billionaire, and DOGE are operating outside of the law

On November 12, 2024, President-elect Donald Trump selected Elon Musk to lead DOGE, which while called a “department” has not been authorized or funded by any act of Congress.

On January 20, 2025, President Trump began implementing his “DOGE Agenda” by repurposing the United States Digital Service and [creating a new temporary organization](#). However, the structure of DOGE and Elon Musk’s official responsibilities as the head of DOGE remain a mystery: he has not been elected to any political office, confirmed by the Senate, or (as far as can be determined from public communications) hired as a federal employee. The Trump administration has remained silent on his current employment status, his specific duties, and the application of [conflict of interest rules](#) to Musk. With massive conflicts of interest and business interests spanning across multiple federal agencies, Elon Musk is legally prohibited from accessing the very type of private and financial information he has sought to obtain at the Treasury Department, Office of Personnel Management (OPM), and other agencies.

It has also been reported that DOGE representatives (who also may not be federal employees) may have accessed classified information and gained access to secure spaces at [U.S. Agency for International Development](#) (USAID) and potentially other agencies. To our knowledge, Musk and most of the individuals working for DOGE—some of whom may be teenagers—have not been granted the necessary security clearances to access sensitive or classified information. This is a national security threat that Congress must investigate immediately, especially when considering that DOGE representatives have been alone in some cases, having physically isolated themselves from other career staff, and have also been seen plugging in external hard drives at multiple agencies. We must have a full account of which individuals had access to what information, and what if any information was collected or shared outside of secure agency spaces and networks.

As you know, in response to the January 27, 2025, OMB memo attempting to illegally freeze federal grants, loans, and financial assistance, two courts have stepped in to block not only the original OMB memo from being implemented but any effort that seeks to do the same. While the Trump administration has officially rescinded its memo, its actions demonstrate that it continues to implement the spirit of the memo and confirms what Chief Judge John J. McConnell, Jr. of the United States District Court of Rhode Island [stated](#) when he granted a temporary restraining order (TRO) on January 31, 2025:

"The defendants now claim that this matter is moot because it rescinded the OMB Directive. But the evidence shows the alleged rescission of the OMB Directive was in name-only and may have been issued simply to defeat the jurisdiction of the courts. *The substantive effect of the directive carries on.* [Emphasis added.]"

Despite clear orders in the TRO preventing the Administration from “giving effect to the OMB Directive under any other name or title or through any other Defendants (or agency supervised, administered, or controlled by any Defendant),” DOGE has apparently disregarded the court orders and has instead continued to freeze and cut programs. Indeed, Elon Musk has publicly indicated in the days following the TRO that DOGE has “shut down” payments for programs for which Congress has appropriated funding, which would be a violation of the TRO and could place him and others at DOGE in criminal contempt of court.

This is a critical moment for our country, our democracy, and for the rule of law. Congress has a duty under our Constitution to assert and protect its own spending power and exercise its oversight functions to ensure that the Executive Branch does not overreach or abuse its power. What we have seen from Elon Musk and DOGE indicates an astounding disregard for the law. We demand that Congress act immediately to investigate the full scope of activities undertaken by Elon Musk and his representatives.

National Women's Law Center
AFL-CIO
AFT | Education, Healthcare, Public Services
Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF)
Center for Democracy & Technology
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Change Action
Court Accountability Action
Democracy Matters
Economic Policy Institute
Equal Rights Advocates
Greenpeace USA
Human Rights Campaign
Indivisible
League of Conservation Voters
MomsRising
20/20 Vision
Access Now
AI for the People
Alliance for a Just Society
American Humanist Association
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)
Americans for Financial Reform
Americans for Financial Relief
Aunties Coalition
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
Campaign for America's Future
Center for Advancement of Public Policy
Center for Digital Democracy
Center for Economic Justice
Center for Justice & Democracy

Public Citizen
League of Women Voters of the United States
MoveOn
National Immigration Law Center
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
Paid Leave for All Action
Planned Parenthood Action Fund
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sierra Club
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Union of Concerned Scientists
Center for Media and Democracy
Center for Progressive Reform
Child Labor Coalition
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)
Clean Water Action
Climate Democracy Initiative
Coalition for Sensible Safeguards
Color Of Change
Consumer Action
Consumer Federation of America
Consumer Reports
EdTrust
Ekō
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
Endangered Species Coalition
FFRF Action Fund

Fourth Branch Action
Free Speech For People
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends of the Earth
GEM
Get Free
Government Information Watch
Green New Deal Network
Groundwork Collaborative
Human Rights First
Japanese American Citizens League
Jonathan Wentworth Associates, Ltd.
Just Solutions
Justice and Joy National Collaborative
Lawyers for Good Government
Legal Momentum
Midwest Building Decarbonization Coalition
Nathaniel R. Jones Foundation
National Association of Social Workers
National Consumers League
National Council of Jewish Women
National Employment Law Project
National Employment Lawyers Association
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Health Law Program
National Institute for Workers' Rights
National Latina Institute for Reproductive
Justice
National Organization of API Ending Sexual
Violence
National Resource Center on Domestic
Violence
National Women's Political Caucus

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social
Justice
New Heights Communications
Partnership for Policy Integrity
People For the American Way
People Power United
People's Parity Project
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Progressive Change Institute
Project On Government Oversight
Protect Democracy
Public Justice
Reproaction
Revolving Door Project
RootsAction.org
Sciencecorps
Social Security Works
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
(SEARAC)
Take on Wall Street
The Restaurant Opportunities Center United
(ROC United)
The Tech Oversight Project
The Workers Circle
Trans Empowerment Project
True North
uAspire
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
Veterans for American Ideals
Voters of Tomorrow
Win Without War
Women Lawyers On Guard Action Network,
Inc.

CC: U.S. Congress