

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