

**Congresswoman Hillary J. Scholten (MI-03)**

Thank you, Chairman Joyce and Ranking Member Hoyer for holding this hearing.

I want to bring the Subcommittee's attention to the serious concerns that my constituents and I have about the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE.

DOGE has amassed significant authority over federal operations, all while operating with minimal transparency and oversight. Congress needs to take a hard look at how DOGE is funded, what it's doing, and who is pulling the strings.

The problem starts with the funding. DOGE is receiving congressionally appropriated funds that were originally meant to support the U.S. Digital Service, an agency dedicated to improving government digital services to make federal services more accessible and efficient for the American people.

But DOGE's activities clearly have expanded far beyond IT. It has taken on broad responsibilities that impact government operations, federal spending, and even regulatory processes. In short, this is an agency with enormous influence—yet Congress and the public know very little about how it operates.

Let's be clear: DOGE directly impacts taxpayer dollars. DOGE is making real decisions that are affecting hard-working Americans trying to make ends meet. And yet, it operates in the shadows, free from scrutiny and accountability. That is unacceptable.

And if that weren't concerning enough, we have an outside, unelected billionaire—Elon Musk—making these decisions. Taxpayer dollars should not be subject to the influence of any unelected individual, no matter how rich they are.

That is why I introduced the CLEAR Act, which would ensure DOGE allows for public record requests for full accountability. No president—Republican or Democratic—should be able to hide the actions of their

Administration from the American people. Government should work for the people, not in secret, and not at the whim of billionaires.

The government should not fund fraud. Full stop. I am 100% in favor of trimming the waste out of our budget. The American people work hard for their money, and they have a right to know how their taxpayer dollars are being spent. And we, in Congress, need to spend it wisely.

DOGE has claimed to have found billions of dollars of waste and fraud. The problem is that they have not shared any credible evidence of those claims and the publicly available “receipts” are full of errors and inaccuracies.

Just as I don’t support funding fraud and waste, I don’t support taking away someone’s health care and Social Security on baseless accusations that there *might* be fraud somewhere.

We need proof and we need a process. That's why my bill, the CLEAR Act, is so important.

I urge the Subcommittee to take this issue seriously and support the CLEAR Act to ensure that no government office is allowed to operate in the dark. Congress has a responsibility to demand transparency, accountability, and integrity in our government.

I ask for your support in making sure that taxpayer dollars are protected and that the power of knowledge remains where it belongs: with the people.

Thank you, I yield back.