

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 28, 2025

The Honorable Pamela J. Bondi
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Kash Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Attorney General Bondi and Director Patel:

We write with serious concerns about recent reports indicating that the Department of Justice (DOJ) is shuttering its Public Integrity Section¹ and dissolving a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) squad focused on public corruption.² These moves follow the Trump Administration's decisions to shut down or otherwise scale back enforcement of laws that prohibit corruption³ and white-collar crime.⁴ DOJ's refusal to enforce anti-corruption laws betrays the public trust and will create lasting harm to Americans' faith in the integrity of government officials.

While many Americans may not be familiar with DOJ's Public Integrity Section, this division plays a critical role in investigating and prosecuting violators of public corruption laws.⁵ Since Watergate,⁶ the Public Integrity Section has secured convictions of public officials who engage in corruption.⁷ The Section operates with prosecutorial independence and brings cases without regard to political party. These prosecutors—charged with carrying out politically sensitive investigations and legal actions against public officials—play an essential role in administering the laws impartially and holding elected officials and other public servants accountable.

But under your leadership and at President Trump's direction, the Public Integrity Section has been gutted and its independence eroded. Reports suggest that the division has had its headcount

¹ NBC News, "Justice Department office that prosecutes public corruption slashed in size, sources say," Ryan J. Reilly, Sarah Fitzpatrick, and David Rohde, March 11, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/justice-department-office-prosecutes-public-corruption-slashed-size-so-rcna195928>.

² New York Times, "F.B.I. Dismantles Elite Public Corruption Squad," Adam Goldman, Glenn Thrush, and Devlin Barrett, May 15, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/15/us/politics/fbi-public-corruption-squad-trump.html>.

³ The White House, "Pausing Foreign Corrupt Practices Act Enforcement to Further American Economic and National Security," February 10, 2025 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/pausing-foreign-corrupt-practices-act-enforcement-to-further-american-economic-and-national-security/>.

⁴ Wall Street Journal, "Trump Administration Retreats From White-Collar Criminal Enforcement," Dave Michaels, Richard Vanderford, and James Fanelli, April 13, 2025, https://www.wsj.com/finance/regulation/trump-doj-white-collar-law-enforcement-4d27b06d?gaa_at=eafs&gaa_n=ASWzDAhk7ZW_2u9P7LFpn5E84R4Ri-G5cO1AIVlJekPzcu0VcYezW-RLiYaVuPLNvioE%3D&gaa_ts=685b0528&gaa_sig=3HNrRenfAGvIMB0ihSTKvThbEf6UfzDkjCM0ep7nz7qe0KmRjfk0QL--SwZ7wFmrEQMLWaROBsOEI9XuZ3QTvw%3D%3D.

⁵ Department of Justice, "About the Public Integrity Section," August 11, 2023, <https://www.justice.gov/criminal/criminal-pin/about>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Department of Justice, "Significant Cases," August 11, 2023, <https://www.justice.gov/criminal/criminal-pin/significant-cases>.

slashed from more than 30 attorneys down to just four or five.⁸ The Section has also been stripped of its authority to file new cases, leaving a critical gap in enforcement of federal anti-corruption laws.⁹ Several ongoing cases are now “in limbo,” or have been dropped by DOJ,¹⁰ letting alleged lawbreakers off the hook. And the Public Integrity Section remains leaderless since the wave of resignations—including by the acting head of the Section—following the Department’s decision to dismiss a pending corruption case against the New York City mayor.¹¹ These appear to be the actions of an administration that has no concern about—or that even welcomes—corrupt acts by public officials.

Equally concerning are reports that DOJ’s Public Integrity Section has been sidelined in its typical role approving potential cases against members of Congress that are brought by regional U.S. Attorneys, a process that has helped ensure that such sensitive cases are legitimate and not politically motivated.¹² As one former attorney for the Public Integrity Section put it, “[t]he reason you have the section is exactly what this administration says they want, which is [to] stop politicization.”¹³

The work of the Section has been supported by an “elite” squad of federal agents within the FBI who investigate public corruption.¹⁴ Like the Public Integrity Section, that FBI unit is now being disbanded.¹⁵ This FBI squad has helped uncover corrupt and unethical acts by elected members of both parties, as well as lobbyists and other government employees.¹⁶ Many of their investigations have resulted in federal prosecutions, including of two Democratic congressmen and a lobbyist who engaged in an unprecedented influence peddling campaign with Republican representatives in Congress and officials in the Bush administration.¹⁷ But now the squad is being dissolved and its members fired or reassigned to other units that do not focus on public corruption—including entirely unrelated topics such as immigration.¹⁸

⁸ NBC News, “Firings, pardons and policy changes have gutted DOJ anti-corruption efforts, experts say,” Ken Dilanian, June 3, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/firings-pardons-policy-changes-gutted-doj-anti-corruption-efforts-expe-rcna200571>.

⁹ Reuters, “How Trump defanged the Justice Department’s political corruption watchdogs,” Sarah N. Lynch et al., June 9, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/investigations/how-trump-defanged-justice-departments-political-corruption-watchdogs-2025-06-09/>.

¹⁰ NBC News, “Firings, pardons and policy changes have gutted DOJ anti-corruption efforts, experts say,” Ken Dilanian, June 3, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/firings-pardons-policy-changes-gutted-doj-anti-corruption-efforts-expe-rcna200571>.

¹¹ MSNBC, “DOJ reportedly slashes staff at office focused on prosecuting public corruption,” Steven Benen, March 12, 2025, <https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/maddowblog/doj-reportedly-slashes-staff-office-focused-prosecuting-public-corrupt-rcna196102>.

¹² Washington Post, “Trump Justice Dept. considers removing key check on lawmaker prosecutions,” Perry Stein and Jeremy Roebuck, May 17, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/05/17/trump-justice-department-prosecutions/>.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ New York Times, “F.B.I. Dismantles Elite Public Corruption Squad,” Adam Goldman, Glenn Thrush, and Devlin Barrett, May 15, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/15/us/politics/fbi-public-corruption-squad-trump.html>.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*; New York Times, “Abramoff Gets 4 Years in Prison for Corruption,” Neil A. Lewis, September 4, 2008, <https://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/05/washington/05abramoff.html>.

¹⁸ New York Times, “F.B.I. Dismantles Elite Public Corruption Squad,” Adam Goldman, Glenn Thrush, and Devlin Barrett, May 15, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/15/us/politics/fbi-public-corruption-squad-trump.html>.

By shuttering the public corruption work of both the FBI and DOJ, you and President Trump are giving the green light to would-be lawbreakers. This is just part of the Trump Administration's creation of a two-tiered system of justice—one for large corporations¹⁹ and President Trump's wealthy friends,²⁰ and another for everyone else.

The damage of these actions is compounded by the fact that they are occurring in the midst of an unprecedented wave of corruption in the Trump Administration.²¹ President Trump has used the power of the presidency to enrich himself by creating pay-to-play crypto schemes,²² accepting a \$400 million gift from a foreign government,²³ issuing pardons to major donors,²⁴ and more. Some of his top officials—many of whom are former lobbyists and billionaire CEOs—have serious financial conflicts of interest,²⁵ or appear to have used their powerful positions for their personal benefit,²⁶ not in the best interests of the American people. Robust, independent investigations into public corruption are needed now more than ever to shore up Americans' waning trust in the integrity of their representatives and public officials.

To address our grave concerns about your decision to effectively legalize corruption and politicize prosecutorial decisions, we request answers to the following questions by September 5, 2025:

¹⁹ The Guardian, "US-Boeing deal over 737 Max crashes 'morally repugnant', says lawyer for victims' families," Lauren Almeida, June 5, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jun/05/us-boeing-deal-over-737-max-crashes-morally-repugnant-says-lawyer-for-victims-families>.

²⁰ New York Times, "Trump Pardoned Tax Cheat After Mother Attended \$1 Million Dinner," Kenneth P. Vogel, May 27, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/27/us/politics/trump-pardon-paul-walczak-tax-crimes.html>.

²¹ Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren, "SPECIAL INTERESTS OVER THE PUBLIC INTEREST: ELON MUSK'S 130 DAYS IN THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION," June 2025, https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/130_days_of_elon_musk_report.pdf; Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren, "Warren, Reed, Wyden Urge Justice Department to Determine if DOGE Employees' Committed Criminal Violations of Federal Ethics Laws," press release, May 29, 2025, <https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/warren-reed-wyden-urge-justice-department-to-determine-if-doge-employees-committed-criminal-violations-of-federal-ethics-laws>.

²² NBC News, "At Trump's crypto dinner: Tuxedos, luxury cars and a former NBA star," David Ingram and Nnamdi Egwuonwu, May 22, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/crypto/trumps-meme-coin-dinner-tuxedos-luxury-subs-protesters-rcna208647>.

²³ Reuters, "US accepts luxury jet from Qatar for use as Air Force One for Trump," David Shepardson and Phil Stewart, May 22, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/us-formally-accepts-luxury-jet-qatar-trump-new-york-times-2025-05-21/>.

²⁴ New York Times, "Trump Pardoned Tax Cheat After Mother Attended \$1 Million Dinner," Kenneth P. Vogel, May 27, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/27/us/politics/trump-pardon-paul-walczak-tax-crimes.html>.

²⁵ See, e.g., Letter from Senator Elizabeth Warren to HHS Secretary nominee Robert F. Kennedy Jr, February 5, 2025, https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/warren_kaine_letter_to_rfk_on_ethics.pdf; Letter from Senator Elizabeth Warren to Defense Secretary nominee Pete Hegseth, January 17, 2025, https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/final_-_warren_letter_to_hegseth_on_ethics_commitment.pdf; Letter from Senator Elizabeth Warren to Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, March 17, 2025, https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_to_trump_administration_on_corruption.pdf.

²⁶ See, e.g., Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren, "Warren, Waters Call for Investigation After Commerce Secretary Lutnick Promotes Tesla Stock on National TV," press release, March 28, 2025, <https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/warren-waters-call-for-investigation-after-commerce-secretary-lutnick-promotes-tesla-stock-on-national-tv>; Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren, "SPECIAL INTERESTS OVER THE PUBLIC INTEREST: ELON MUSK'S 130 DAYS IN THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION," June 2025, https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/130_days_of_elon_musk_report.pdf; ProPublica, "Musk Adviser May Make as Much as \$1 Million a Year While Helping to Dismantle Agency That Regulates Tesla and X," Jake Pearson, May 14, 2025, <https://www.propublica.org/article/doge-elon-musk-chris-young-cfpb-tesla-x>.


1. How many Public Integrity Section cases remain active as of the date of your response?
2. How many FBI investigations into public corruption remain active as of the date of your response?
3. What factors contributed to the decision to downsize DOJ's Public Integrity Section and disband or reassign the agents working for the FBI team focused on investigating public corruption?
 - a. How many attorneys resigned, were fired, or were reassigned from the Public Integrity Section for refusing to sign court filings in the Eric Adams public corruption case?²⁷
4. Has the DOJ adopted any internal policy, formal or informal, of not enforcing or prioritizing federal domestic anti-corruption laws (beyond policies related to enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and Foreign Agents Registration Act)²⁸?
 - a. Do you understand any executive order issued by President Trump to require non-enforcement or reduced prioritization of federal domestic anti-corruption laws?
5. Has the DOJ adopted any internal policy, formal or informal, regarding partisan enforcement of federal domestic anti-corruption laws, such as avoiding actions against Republican officials or prioritizing actions directed at Democratic officials?
6. Has the FBI adopted any internal policy, formal or informal, of not investigating potential violations of federal domestic anti-corruption laws?
 - a. Do you understand any executive order issued by President Trump to require halting investigations of federal domestic anti-corruption laws?
7. How many attorneys remain in DOJ's Public Integrity Section?
 - a. How many were working for the Section as of January 20, 2025?
8. What other divisions within DOJ, if any, currently have the authority to start new investigations or file cases pertaining to public corruption?
 - a. How many attorneys in those divisions work on public corruption matters?
 - b. How many attorneys in those divisions have significant experience investigating public corruption cases?
 - c. How many have been reassigned to work on other enforcement priorities, such as immigration enforcement?
9. How many FBI agents are assigned to investigations pertaining to public corruption?
 - a. How many were assigned to public corruption investigations as of January 20, 2025?
10. What other teams within the FBI, if any, currently have the responsibility to conduct investigations pertaining to public corruption?
 - a. How many agents within those teams work on public corruption matters?
 - b. How many agents within those teams have significant experience prosecuting public corruption cases?
 - c. How many have been reassigned to work on other enforcement priorities, such as immigration enforcement?

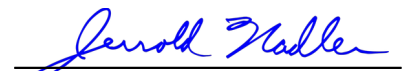
²⁷ NBC News, "Firings, pardons and policy changes have gutted DOJ anti-corruption efforts, experts say," Ken Dilanian, June 3, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/firings-pardons-policy-changes-gutted-doj-anti-corruption-efforts-expe-rcna200571>.


²⁸ Mayer Brown, "US DOJ Outlines New Enforcement Priorities for Corporations and Individuals," Adam S. Hickey et al., February 14, 2025, <https://www.mayerbrown.com/en/insights/publications/2025/02/us-doj-outlines-new-enforcement-priorities-for-corporations-and-individuals>.


11. Has the DOJ formally withdrawn its policy²⁹ of requiring indictments of members of Congress to be approved by attorneys within DOJ's Public Integrity Section?
- If not, why was the interim U.S. Attorney for New Jersey allowed to bring charges against Representative McIver without receiving approval from the Public Integrity Section?³⁰
 - If so, what factors led to the decision to withdraw the policy?
 - Does the Weaponization Working Group within DOJ, led by Ed Martin,³¹ have the authority to bring public corruption prosecutions against members of Congress or other parties, with or without approval from the Public Integrity Section?


Sincerely,

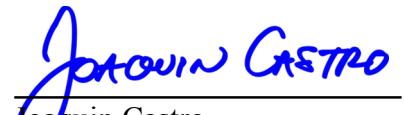

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


Peter Welch
United States Senator


Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

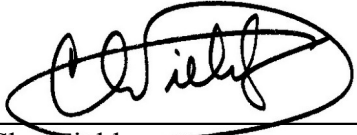

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator


Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

²⁹ Washington Post, "Trump Justice Dept. considers removing key check on lawmaker prosecutions," Perry Stein and Jeremy Roebuck, May 17, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/05/17/trump-justice-department-prosecutions/>.

³⁰ NBC News, "DOJ departed from standard protocol in charging Rep. LaMonica McIver, source says," Ryan J. Reilly, May 20, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/trump-administration/live-blog/trump-administration-rfk-immigration-doge-tariffs-mciver-live-updates-rcna207474#rcrd79947>.

³¹ Department of Justice, "Staff Profile: Pardon Attorney Edward R. Martin Jr.," May 30, 2025, <https://www.justice.gov/pardon/staff-profile/pardon-attorney-edward-r-martin-jr>.



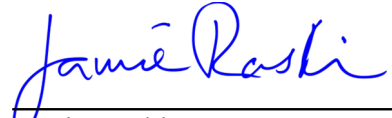
Cleo Fields
Member of Congress




Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



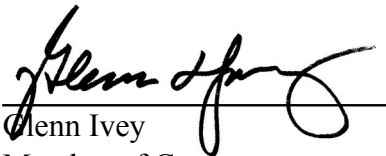
Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Committee on the
Judiciary



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



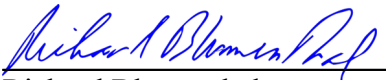
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

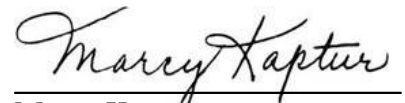


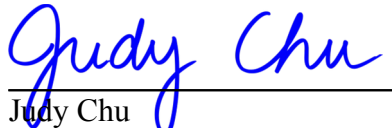
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress





Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

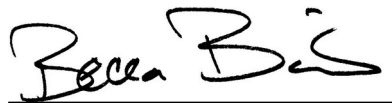

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

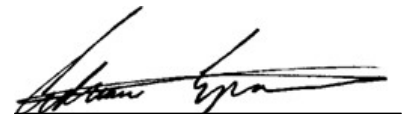

Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



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



Becca Balint
Member of Congress

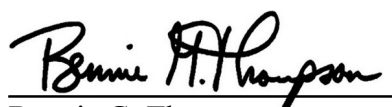

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

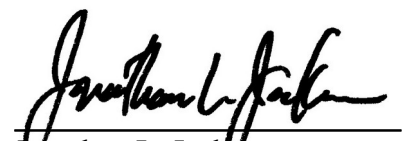

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator


Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress


Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress


Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress


Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress


Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



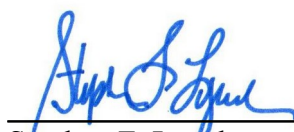
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



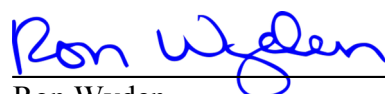
Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



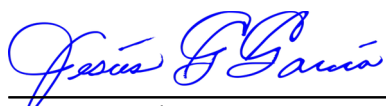
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



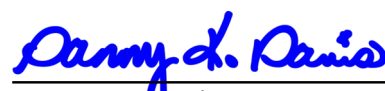
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



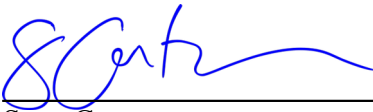
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



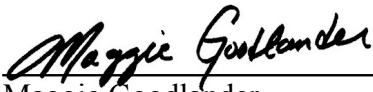
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



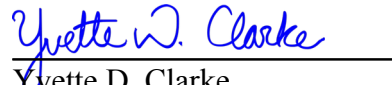
Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



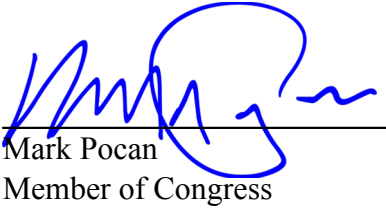
Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress




Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



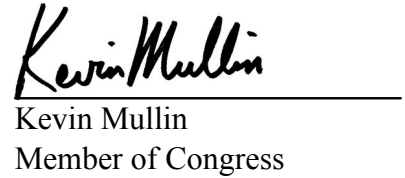
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



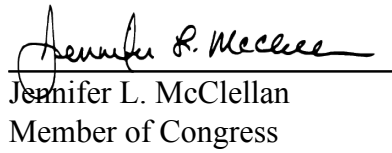
Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



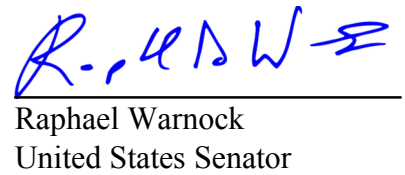
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



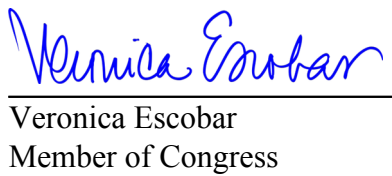
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



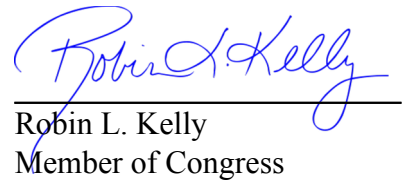
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



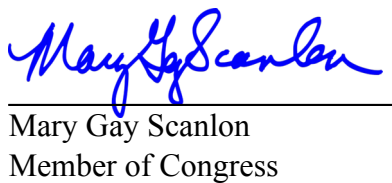
Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress