



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528 | www.oig.dhs.gov

August 2, 2024

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Grassley:

Thank you for your July 16, 2024, letter requesting the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) open a review into the assassination attempt against former President Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania on July 13, 2024. You also asked if DHS has delayed access to information OIG needs during our reviews.

DHS OIG Reviews of U.S. Secret Service Processes and Preparation

As discussed in the staff briefing, we provided to your office on July 26, immediately following the tragic events of July 13, we initiated three separate reviews of the United States Secret Service (USSS). These reviews will examine:

- The process implemented by USSS to secure the Butler, PA event on July 13, 2024.
- The extent to which the Secret Service Counter Sniper Team is prepared for, and responds to, threats at events attended by designated protectees.
- The extent to which USSS plans and implements protective activities to ensure the safety and security of designated protectees.

Access to Information

Since 2021, my office has consistently reported DHS's delays and denials to our requests for information which we need to do our jobs and to which we are entitled, consistent with the law.

Beginning with OIG's Semiannual Report (SAR) for the six-month period ending September 30, 2021, and continuing with each subsequent SAR, OIG has documented DHS's delays in fulfilling,

and outright denials of, OIG's requests for records and information.¹ In addition, since 2022, my office has provided mandated quarterly reports to all four corners of the appropriations committees concerning access issues. Further, my office provides mandated reports regarding denied access to information to committees of jurisdiction in accordance with the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. Despite our continued reporting of these issues, we have yet to see satisfactory resolution. These continued delays and denials have significantly impacted the timeliness of our audits and inspections and have hampered our ability to obtain and proactively analyze data that would assist in identifying DHS risks.

I appreciate your continued support of our work. We have committed to providing regular updates to your staff regarding our ongoing USSS reviews, and I welcome the opportunity to brief you directly.

Please call me with any questions, or your staff may contact Kristen Fredricks, Chief of Staff, at 202-981-6000.

Sincerely,

Joseph V. Cuffari, Ph.D.
Inspector General

¹ OIG's Semiannual Report for the period October 1, 2023 – March 30, 2024, describes a dozen instances in which DHS delayed or denied OIG access to records and other information. Although OIG is responsible for the contents of the Semiannual Report, it is the responsibility of the Secretary to transmit the report to Congress. See 5 U.S.C. § 405(c). OIG completed the Semiannual Report in May 2024, however, to date the Secretary has not authorized the transmission of the report to Congress.