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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

March 9, 2026

**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
 Secretary  
 Department of Homeland Security

Dear Secretary Noem:

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the sole agency affected by a lapse in government funding.<sup>1</sup> I am concerned about the impacts of the Democrat-led shut down and write to request information from you to better understand how it will affect DHS and its component agencies.

According to reports, DHS components such as the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Coast Guard, Secret Service, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) are severely affected by this shutdown.<sup>2</sup> Specifically, according to TSA Acting Administrator Ha Nguyen McNeil, roughly 95 percent of TSA employees are deemed essential and are working without pay.<sup>3</sup> The funding lapse may lead to flight delays and cancellations across the country.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, Admiral Thomas Allan, the Coast Guard Vice Commandant, stated that the Coast Guard would have to “suspend all missions, except those for national security or the protection of life and property.”<sup>5</sup> Reporting has indicated that the lapse in appropriations could lead to “56,000 active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel” at the Coast Guard to miss pay.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, according to reporting, CISA is currently operating at roughly 38% capacity (888 out of 2,341 staff working without pay) due to the shutdown.<sup>7</sup> CISA’s Acting Director stated that with a shutdown, CISA’s work would be “strictly limited to those that are essential to protecting life and property” and available staff will “only look at anything that is an immediate need and an imminent threat,” and he stated the agency will be unable to proactively scan for cyber vulnerabilities.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Elkin and Alex Miller, *DHS shutdown explained: Who works without pay, what happens to airports and disaster response* (Feb. 13, 2026), FOX NEWS, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/dhs-shutdown-explained-who-works-without-pay-what-happens-airports-disaster-response?msocid=1979114121c76140288a04d6207560b1>; Alex Miller, *DHS shutdown drags into 4th day as Senate Democrats block funding over ICE reforms* (Feb. 17, 2026), FOX NEWS, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/dhs-shutdown-drags-4th-day-senate-democrats-block-funding-over-ice-reforms?msocid=1979114121c76140288a04d6207560b1>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Kevin Townsend, *CISA Navigates DHS Shutdown With Reduced Staff* (Feb. 16, 2026), SECURITY WEEK, <https://www.securityweek.com/cisa-navigates-dhs-shutdown-with-reduced-staff/>.

<sup>8</sup> David Dimolfetta, *CISA to furlough most of its workforce under impending DHS shutdown* (Feb. 13, 2026), DEFENSE ONE, <https://www.defenseone.com/policy/2026/02/cisa-furlough-most-its-workforce-under-impending-dhs-shutdown/411454/>.

The shutdown also impacts the Secret Service's ability to implement reforms in the wake of the July 2024 assassination attempt against then-candidate Trump.<sup>9</sup> Specifically, according to Deputy Secret Service Director Matthew Quinn, the Secret Service is "on the cusp of implementing generational change for our organization. A shutdown halts our reforms and undermines the momentum that we, including all of you, have worked so hard to build together."<sup>10</sup>

Accordingly, please provide a detailed explanation of the effects the government shutdown has had on DHS and its component agencies and, should it continue, future impacts on the Department's operations.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Tucker Akin on my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary

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<sup>9</sup> Elizabeth Elkin and Alex Miller, *DHS shutdown explained: Who works without pay, what happens to airports and disaster response* (Feb. 13, 2026), FOX NEWS, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/dhs-shutdown-explained-who-works-without-pay-what-happens-airports-disaster-response?msockid=1979114121c76140288a04d6207560b1>; Alex Miller, *DHS shutdown drags into 4th day as Senate Democrats block funding over ICE reforms* (Feb. 17, 2026), FOX NEWS, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/dhs-shutdown-drags-4th-day-senate-democrats-block-funding-over-ice-reforms?msockid=1979114121c76140288a04d6207560b1>.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*