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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

February 11, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Scott Turner
 Secretary
 Department of Housing and Urban Development

Dear Secretary Turner:

On December 18, 2025, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released its *Agency Report of Fiscal Year 2025*.¹ Among its many findings, the report states that “billions in taxpayer funds . . . went to ‘questionable’ rental assistance recipients under former President Joe Biden.”² The questionable payments, reportedly were due to the “[Biden] administration’s failure to implement strong financial controls,”³ which allegedly led to HUD issuing improper payments to over 30,000 deceased tenants.⁴ Moreover, the report notes that “[an] analysis of the records indicates that thousands of ineligible non-citizens are potentially receiving assistance under the programs.”⁵ I have repeatedly expressed concerns to your predecessors at HUD about lax federal spending oversight by Public Housing Agencies (PHAs).⁶ As Americans are struggling to provide for their families, it’s unacceptable when any HUD payments are improperly issued.

Next, the report details how the Biden-HUD “placed substantial trust and responsibility in . . . non-federal entities, such as housing authorities, contract administrators, and landlords, to accurately assess tenant eligibility.”⁷ According to the report, reliance on these non-federal entities likely contributed to the agency’s failure to properly screen for eligibility among those receiving federal benefits.

¹ Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Agency Final Report Fiscal Year 2025*, (Dec. 18, 2025) <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CFO/documents/afr2025.pdf>.

² Rachel Wolf, Fox News, *Biden-era rental assistance included payments to dead tenants and noncitizens, new HUD report reveals*, (Dec. 30, 2025) <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-era-rental-assistance-included-payments-dead-tenants-non-citizens-new-hud-report-reveals>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Agency Final Report Fiscal Year 2025*, (Dec. 18, 2025) <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CFO/documents/afr2025.pdf>.

⁵ *Id.* at 173

⁶ Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, to Hon. Dr. Ben Carson, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (March 8, 2017), available at <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/sites/default/files/constituents/2017-3-8%20CEG%20to%20HUD%20%28Buffalo%20Municipal%20Housing%20Authority%20conference%20spending%29.pdf>; “Grassley Conveys Housing Concerns to HUD Secretary Nominee Carson” (January 4, 2017), available at <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-conveys-housing-concerns-hud-secretary-nomineecarson>; “HUD Releases Audit of Omaha Housing Authority After Grassley’s Prodding” (July 27, 2015), available at <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/hud-releases-audit-omaha-housing-authority-aftergrassley%E2%80%99s-prodding>; Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, and Hon. Mark Kirk, U.S. Senator, to Hon. Julian Castro, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (October 23, 2014), available at <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/sites/default/files/news/upload/CEG%20and%20Kirk%20to%20HUD%20%28MTW%20reserve%20funds%29%2C%2010-23-14.pdf>; Hon. Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, to Hon. Shaun Donovan, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (June 24, 2014); Hon. Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, to Hon. Shaun L.S. Donovan, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (October 25, 2010), available at <https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2010-10-25%20Letter%20to%20HUD.pdf>.

⁷ Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Agency Final Report Fiscal Year 2025*, (Dec. 18, 2025) <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CFO/documents/afr2025.pdf>.

Finally, the report describes a new software process for reviewing the improper use of HUD government charge cards. Under the Trump administration, a new automated dashboard has been created to “help review purchase data transactions for potential fraud, waste and abuse by government employees.”⁸

As we’ve seen in Minnesota and other states, fraud can operate on a national scale and there is significant work to be done to deter fraudsters and hold those who steal from the American people accountable. I appreciate the Trump administration’s commitment to transparency and to new efforts to root out waste, fraud, and abuse, including the creation of a new division for national fraud enforcement within the Department of Justice.⁹ However, to better understand your agency’s efforts to safeguard the American taxpayer and to ensure the integrity of federal programs like HUD’s rental assistance program, provide answers to the following no later than February 25, 2026:

1. The HUD Final Agency Report stated that ineligible non-citizens may have improperly received federal funds. How many ineligible non-citizens have received HUD assistance from January 20, 2021, to the present? How much taxpayer money has been sent to ineligible non-citizens and for what purposes? Describe in detail and provide all records.¹⁰
2. One HUD official was recently quoted “the Department could make criminal referrals and exercise other enforcement actions once it has confirmed fraud occurred.”¹¹ Has HUD made any criminal referrals from January 20, 2025, to the present? If so, how many and for what? Describe in detail.
3. Has the new HUD dashboard led to the discovery of improper or illegal uses of government charge cards by federal employees? If so, how much taxpayer money was spent on improper or illegal charges? What types of expenses were improperly charged to these government cards? Describe in detail, including disciplinary actions taken, and provide all records.
4. Provide all records of fraud-related training for HUD personnel between January 20, 2021, to the present.

⁸ *Id.* at 17

⁹ The White House, Fact Sheets, *President Donald J. Trump Establishes New Department of Justice Division for National Fraud Enforcement*, (Jan. 8, 2025) <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2026/01/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-establishes-new-department-of-justice-division-for-national-fraud-enforcement/>.

¹⁰ “Records” include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether they resulted in final documents).

¹¹ Rachel Wolf, Fox News, *Biden-era rental assistance included payments to dead tenants and noncitizens, new HUD report reveals*, (Dec. 30, 2025) <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-era-rental-assistance-included-payments-dead-tenants-non-citizens-new-hud-report-reveals>.

5. What, if any, internal policies or procedures exist to alert HUD to improper disbursement of funds by non-federal entities? Describe in detail and provide all records.
6. How does HUD anticipate collaborating with the new DOJ division for national fraud enforcement, recently announced by the White House?

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

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary