

LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
MICHAEL S. LEE, UTAH
TED CRUZ, TEXAS
JOSH HAWLEY, MISSOURI
THOM TILLIS, NORTH CAROLINA
JOHN KENNEDY, LOUISIANA
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE
ERIC SCHMITT, MISSOURI
KATIE BOYD BRITT, ALABAMA
ASHLEY MOODY, FLORIDA

RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND
AMY KLOBUCHAR, MINNESOTA
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT
MAZIE HIRONO, HAWAII
CORY A. BOOKER, NEW JERSEY
ALEX PADILLA, CALIFORNIA
PETER WELCH, VERMONT
ADAM B. SCHIFF, CALIFORNIA

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

February 14, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary
Department of State

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services

Mr. Elon Musk
Department of Government Efficiency

Dear Secretary Rubio, Secretary Noem, Secretary Kennedy, and Mr. Musk:

Throughout my career, I've held Republican and Democratic administrations to the same standard, that is, they are to be proper stewards of the taxpayers' money. Both Republican and Democratic administrations have failed to meet that standard for far too long. Waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement have become the norm rather than an aberration. Administration after administration has kicked the can down the road. This is unacceptable conduct that has breached faith with *We the People*.

Over the past four years, I've raised serious concerns about the Biden-Harris administration's absolute failure to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars and requested records and information related to their contracts, grants, and awards provided to various organizations.¹

¹ See Letter from Senator Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, to Samantha Power, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, (Apr. 5, 2024), [https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley to usaid - safeguards for aid to haiti.pdf](https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley%20to%20usaid%20-%20safeguards%20for%20aid%20to%20haiti.pdf); Letter from Senator Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, to Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, (Feb. 16, 2023), [https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley to hhs - vera institute of justice.pdf](https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley%20to%20hhs%20-%20vera%20institute%20of%20justice.pdf); Letter from Senator Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee to DHS Secretary Mayorkas, CBP Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director Miller, and ICE Deputy Director Lechleitner, (Oct. 26, 2023) [https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley to dhs mayorkas cpb miller ice lechleitner - cbp one.pdf](https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley%20to%20dhs%20mayorkas%20cpb%20miller%20ice%20lechleitner%20-%20cbp%20one.pdf); Interim Report, Senator Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, 118th Congress, *Preliminary Oversight Findings of the EPA's 2021 Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-*

The Biden-Harris administration repeatedly gave Congress the stiff arm by failing to provide the responsive data, records, and information I requested. The Biden-Harris administration's lack of transparency into their expenditure of taxpayer dollars shows a failure to hold themselves accountable to Congress and the American people. What were they trying to hide?

According to recent reports, under the Biden-Harris administration, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has given out hundreds of millions and potentially billions of taxpayer dollars to fund radical left-wing groups and organizations, including those linked to George Soros, as well as to individuals and entities with ties to terrorism, U.S. sanctions, and corruption.² In addition, Elon Musk recently posted that the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) revealed that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) spent \$59 million during the first week of February 2025 on luxury NYC hotels to house illegal migrants.³ Separately, on January 30, 2025 the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) released a report stating that "FEMA's Insufficient Oversight of COVID-19 Emergency Protective Measures Grants Led to Over \$8.1 Billion in Questioned Costs and \$1.5 Billion in Over-obligated Funds."⁴ As part of this review the DHS OIG also found FEMA made \$32.8 million in improper payments.⁵ Further, it's been reported that during the Biden administration, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided roughly \$22.6 billion in taxpayer dollars in grants to migrants "which included cash assistance to buy cars, homes and even build credit for startup

Solving Cooperative Agreement Program, (Feb. 22, 2024), <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-report-exposes-unchecked-waste-of-taxpayer-funds-in-epa-environmental-justice-program>; Letter from Senator Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, to Antony Blinken, Secretary, U.S. Department of State, (July 12, 2023), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_blinken_-_taliban_funding.pdf.

² Tiana Lowe Doescher, *USAID gave \$270 million to a Soros NGO, but it only needed \$9 million to doom democracy in Albania*, WASHINGTON EXAMINER, (Feb. 7, 2025) <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/3313896/usaaid-gave-270-million-soros-ngo-only-needed-9-million-doom-democracy-albania/>; Robert Schmad, *USAID feeds alumni to left-wing activist organizations*, WASHINGTON EXAMINER, (Feb. 6, 2025) <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/investigations/3311755/usaaid-feeds-alumni-left-wing-activist-organizations/>; USAID Office of the Inspector General, *Challenges to Accountability and Transparency Within USAID-Funded Programs*, Memorandum, (Jan. 23, 2025) <https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/USAID%20Inspector%20General%20Memorandum%20Challenges%20to%20Accountability%20and%20Transparency%20Within%20USAID-Funded%20Programs.pdf>.

³ Elon Musk [@elonmusk]. (Feb. 10, 2025). *The @DOGE team just discovered that FEMA sent \$59M LAST WEEK to luxury hotels in New York City to house illegal migrants. Sending this money violated the law and is in gross insubordination the President's executive order. That money is meant for American disaster relief and instead is being spent on high end hotels for illegals! A clawback demand will be made today to recoup those funds* [Post]; see Aubrie Spady, *DOGE focuses on millions in migrant hotels billed to US taxpayers as DHS Sec. Noem targets FEMA*, FOX NEWS (Feb. 10, 2025) <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/doge-focuses-millions-migrant-hotels-billed-us-taxpayers-dhs-sec-noem-targets-key-agency?msocid=351b89238eb6699116689ca78fd16843>.

⁴ DHS Office of the Inspector General, *Final Report: FEMA's Insufficient Oversight of COVID-19 Emergency Protective Measures Grants Led to Over \$8.1 Billion in Questioned Costs and \$1.5 Billion in Over-obligated Funds* OIG-25-13, (Jan. 30, 2025) <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2025-01/OIG-25-13-Jan25.pdf>.

⁵ *Id.*

businesses.”⁶ Unfortunately, this is just the tip of the fraud and waste iceberg. It’s critically important that financial records corresponding to this disgraceful mismanagement by the federal government be produced to Congress to fully understand the scope of how many taxpayer dollars have been wasted on these initiatives rather than relying on second hand media reports.⁷

Accordingly, in addition to producing all records related to the aforementioned reporting, please provide all records and information from January 2021 to the present related to USAID, HHS, and/or FEMA funding provided to the Open Society Foundation; Arabella Advisors; individuals and entities with ties or backing from George Soros-connected entities; individuals or entities providing DEI related programing; grants and other disbursements to illegal immigrants and/or individuals or entities supporting illegal U.S. immigration; terrorism or terrorists organizations; U.S. sanctioned entities; entities or persons who engaged in corruption; or to individuals, organizations, and entities with ties, relationships, or connections to the aforementioned individuals or entities.⁸ Please provide all responsive records and information no later than February 28, 2025.

Thank you for your prompt review and responses. If you have any questions, please contact my committee staff at (202) 224-5225 to coordinate the production of responsive material.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

⁶ Josh Christenson, *HHS splurged more than \$22B on grants for migrants — including cash for cars, home loans and startups*, New York Post (Feb. 13, 2025) <https://nypost.com/2025/02/13/us-news/hhs-splurged-more-than-22b-on-grants-for-migrants-including-cash-for-cars-home-loans-and-startup-businesses/>.

⁷ See Jamie Joseph, *Former USAID official Mark Moyar says ‘corruption’ at agency ‘subverted’ Trump White House*, (Feb. 6, 2025) FOX NEWS <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/former-usaid-official-mark-moyar-says-corruption-agency-subverted-trump-white-house>.

⁸ “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).