



U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
**UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE**

Washington, D.C. 20223

December 8, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Grassley:

I am in receipt of your letter dated November 9, 2022, seeking information on U.S. Secret Service investigations into criminal activity involving COVID-19 relief programs.

Please find responsive materials in the enclosed attachment.

Should your staff have additional questions or concerns, please have them contact the acting Special Agent in Charge of our Congressional Affairs Program, Jennifer Henderson at [cafhq@uss.s.dhs.gov](mailto:cafhq@uss.s.dhs.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ronald L. Rowe, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ronald L. Rowe, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Office of Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs

Enclosure

**The U.S Secret Service - Response to Ranking Member Charles Grassley  
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary**

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**December 8, 2022**

**Background:** On November 9, 2022, Ranking Member Charles Grassley requested information related to U.S. Secret Service (Secret Service) efforts to combat fraud involving COVID – 19 relief programs.

**Request for Information and Response:**

*As of March 27th, 2020 to the date of this letter, how many cases relating to COVID-19 relief fraud has the Secret Service opened? Of those cases, how many are currently open? For those cases that have been closed, what were the results?*

Response: Between March 27, 2020, and November 9, 2022, the Secret Service opened 1,615 investigations involving fraud associated with COVID-19 relief programs. There are currently 1,244 open cases. The Secret Service has closed 371 cases. The closed cases resulted in 36 arrests.

*As of March 27th, 2020 to the date of this letter, how many cases relating to COVID-19 relief fraud has the Secret Service participated in via a supporting role? Of those cases, how many are currently open? For those cases that have been closed, what were the results? Please list each participating agency.*

Response: Between March 27, 2020, and November 9, 2022, the Secret Service participated in 122 cases in a supporting role. Of these, 102 remain open.

Of the 20 closed cases where the Secret Service acted in a supporting role, the agency is not aware of any arrests.

Domestically, the Secret Service partners with state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies nationwide. These agencies include, but are not limited to, state Attorneys General, various state police agencies, U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Small Business Administration Office of the Inspector General (SBA OIG), Department of Labor Office of the Inspector General (DOL OIG), Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs Office of the Inspector General, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The Secret Service also maintains 18 foreign offices, where we partner with and support numerous foreign law enforcement agencies.

*As of March 27th, 2020 to the date of this letter, how many cases has the Secret Service referred to the Justice Department for prosecution? How many cases has the Secret Service referred to another agency for investigation?*

Response: Between March 27, 2020, and November 9, 2022, the Secret Service conducted 1,615 investigations that involved COVID-19 relief fraud. As of the date of this letter, 159 cases have resulted in federal arrests made in partnership with the Department of Justice.

The Secret Service does not track the number of investigations that it refers to other agencies.

*How much COVID-19 relief fraud monies did the Secret Service seize in FY 2021? How much in FY 2022?*

Response:

FY 2021: the Secret Service seized assets for forfeiture totaling \$879,052,836.92.

FY 2022: the Secret Service seized assets for forfeiture totaling \$44,268,326.08.

Since March 27, 2020, the Secret Service has partnered with DOL OIG, Financial Crimes Enforcement Center (FinCEN), the National Cyber Forensics Training Alliance (NCFTA), and numerous financial sector entities to return approximately \$2.6 billion in unemployment insurance funds to various state unemployment agencies.

Since March 27, 2020, the Secret Service, in partnership with SBA OIG, FinCEN, the NCFTA, and our financial sector partners, has reversed suspicious transactions totaling approximately \$8 billion in Small Business Administration loans.

*Does the Secret Service investigate all fraud in its jurisdiction regardless of the dollar amount?*

Response: The Secret Service carefully examines every reported incident of fraud. This evaluation is usually conducted at the field office level, and, in some cases, incidents may be referred to local partners for more appropriate investigation.