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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

ROBERT GARCIA, CALIFORNIA
RANKING MEMBER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
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https://oversight.house.gov

November 18, 2026

Ms. Kristi Noem
Ashwood Strategies
c/o The Corporation Trust Company
Corporation Trust Center
1209 Orange Street
Wilmington, DE 19801

Dear Ms. Noem:

Oversight Democrats have been investigating allegations of corruption and abuse of power during your tenure as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).[1] While you were overseeing the Trump Administration's violent mass deportation campaign, reporting indicates that you abused DHS funds, undermined career employees, circumvented established safeguards that prevent corruption, and used your position to enrich yourself and associates of the Trump Administration.[2] Voters gave Congressional Democrats a sweeping mandate to root

[1] *See, e.g.*, Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Ranking Member Rick Larsen, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson, Committee on Homeland Security, to the Office of the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security (Mar. 18, 2026) (online at https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/joint_letter_to_dhs_os_re_noem_lewandowski.pdf); Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Ranking Member Rick Larsen, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson, Committee on Homeland Security, to Inspector General Joseph V. Cuffari, Department of Homeland Security (Mar. 18, 2026) (online at https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/joint_letter_to_dhs_oig_re_noem_lewandowski.pdf); Letter from Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson, Committee on Homeland Security, Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ranking Member Rick Larsen, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to Secretary Markwayne Mullin, Department of Homeland Security (Apr. 23, 2026) (online at https://democrats-homeland.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2026-04-23_letter_re_voorhies_fema_contract.pdf); Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Fertitta Enterprises, Inc. (May 21, 2026) (online at https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_to_fertitta_enterprises_inc.pdf); Letter from Ranking Member Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to the Office of the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security (May 1, 2026) (online at https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/20260501garciatodhsrecoastguardquarters1.pdf).

[2] See *Firm Tied to Kristi Noem Secretly Got Money From $220 Million DHS Ad Contracts*, ProPublica (Nov. 14, 2025) (online at www.propublica.org/article/kristi-noem-dhs-ad-campaign-strategy-group); *A Pilot Fired Over Kristi Noem's Missing Blanket and the Constant Chaos Inside DHS*, Wall Street Journal (Feb. 12, 2026) (online at www.wsj.com/politics/policy/chaos-kristi-noem-homeland-security-f095ac95); *Noem Adviser Lewandowski Sought to Carry a Firearm at DHS, Alarming Officials*, MS Now (Feb. 13, 2026) (online

out corruption and ensure that the government is accountable to the people. We intend to act on that mandate in the 120th Congress by conducting the critically important oversight essential for legislative reform. Oversight Democrats demand that you preserve all related records, communications, and information pertaining to your tenure in the Trump Administration.

As Secretary of Homeland Security, you presided over a department rife with allegations of corruption and pay-to-play schemes conducted by special government employee Corey Lewandowski.[3] In addition, you allegedly awarded lucrative DHS contracts to political allies and donors, including pushing through the purchase of five airplanes from a connected donor for $303 million on your last day as Secretary.[4]

Given the gravity of the allegations, Oversight Democrats intend to continue investigations into potential corruption at DHS and the violence carried out by DHS agents. We demand that you preserve all records relevant in any way to these matters, and that you preserve all such materials on an ongoing basis. This request extends to official and personal communications that may be relevant to these matters, and to any such information in the possession of your current or former agents, employees, and associated entities. Inform us immediately if you are or become aware of any attempt to destroy, conceal, or fail to preserve such information.

Americans should be secure in the knowledge that their government is focused on their best interests—not on making the President's associates richer. The American people have spoken, and they demand accountability.

Your employment status, whether with the federal government or not, does not affect the Oversight Committee's ability to pursue investigation. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.[5]

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www.ms.now/news/noem-lewandowski-dhs-gun); *How the White House Hired Republican Political Firms to Launch an Anti-Migrant Ad Campaign*, AP News (Mar. 11, 2025) (online at https://apnews.com/article/dhs-immigration-award-republican-ad-campaign-e7939619195791493e828dfd20604d65).

[3] See *Chasing Side Deals, Flexing Influence: Lewandowski's Power Moves at DHS*, Wall Street Journal (Sept. 7, 2026) (online at www.wsj.com/politics/policy/corey-lewandowski-influence-dhs-43d3fe03); *Justice Dept. Opens Inquiry into Corey Lewandowski*, New York Times (Oct. 22, 2026) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/10/22/us/politics/corey-lewandowski-justice-dept-inquiry.html).

[4] *Kristi Noem's Agency Gave Her Donor a Lucrative Contract Just Before She Left*, New York Times (Oct. 4, 2026) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/10/04/us/politics/kristi-noem-planes-donor.html).

[5] House rule X, clause 4(c)(2).

Sincerely,



Robert Garcia
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman