



One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2025

Ms. Bridget Bean
Acting Director
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Acting Director Bean:

This letter serves to formalize my request that the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) brief members of the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection prior to any significant changes to CISA's workforce or organizational structure.¹ As CISA's authorizers, members of the Subcommittee define its mission and direct its activities. It is critical that we understand how the Administration's changes to the agency will affect the mission we have established.

As you are likely aware, multiple media outlets have reported that cuts to CISA's workforce and programs are imminent. Late last week, CBS News reported that the Trump Administration plans to reduce CISA's workforce by nearly 40 percent.² These cuts will allegedly impact CISA's threat hunting, vulnerability management activities, and election security work, among other things.³ On Tuesday night, Secretary Noem circulated to all employees of the Department of Homeland Security an email indiscriminately urging them to quit their jobs, which could disrupt a range of mission sets at CISA.⁴

These rumored and pending changes to CISA's workforce and programs are more alarming in the context of cuts CISA has already made or attempted to make. CISA fired 130 probationary employees in February, reinstated them in March pursuant to a Federal court order, and immediately placed them

¹ Staff has communicated this request to CISA on multiple occasions prior to this letter.

² Margaret Brennan, et al., *Cybersecurity Agency that Oversees Election Infrastructure to Face Significant Cuts, Sources Say*, CBS NEWS (Apr. 4, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cisa-cybersecurity-election-infrastructure-face-significant-cuts-sources-say/>.

³ David DiMolfetta & Alexandra Kelley, *CISA to Make Staff Cuts in Coming Days, People Familiar Say*, NEXTGOV (Apr. 5, 2025), <https://www.nextgov.com/people/2025/04/cisa-make-comprehensive-staff-cuts-coming-days-people-familiar-say/404320/>; Maggie Miller, *CISA's Next Cut Is the Deepest*, POLITICO (Apr. 7, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/weekly-cybersecurity/2025/04/07/cisas-next-cut-is-the-deepest-00276032>.

⁴ Sam Sabin, *Noem Pushes Voluntary DHS Exits, Per Email*, AXIOS (Apr. 7, 2025), <https://www.axios.com/2025/04/07/dhs-worker-buyouts-trump-administration>.

on administrative leave.⁵ With the Federal court order lifted, it appears that the mass-firing of probationary employees may resume.⁶ Last month, CISA terminated red team contracts that support efforts to identify network vulnerabilities.⁷ Additionally, CISA cut \$10 million in funding for the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center and eliminated funding the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center, both of which provide essential cybersecurity services to state and local governments.⁸

Security experts and CISA's stakeholders have already raised concerns. Mark Montgomery, the Senior Director of the Center on Cyber and Technology Innovation at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said the cuts are "harming national security on a daily basis" and that "[t]his goes well beyond 'disruption' and is actually causing 'destabilization.'"⁹ The Director of Government Affairs for the National Association of State Chief Information Officers similarly remarked on the pending cuts: "It is bewildering that this Administration would remove congressionally approved resources at this critical time, especially as they ask states to shoulder more of the burden to stop cyber attacks."¹⁰ I agree.

It is difficult to convey in writing the full extent of my concern regarding the rumored plans to decimate CISA, but it suffices to say that upending an agency that plays such an important role in defending the homeland while keeping Congress in the dark is wholly unacceptable. At no point has CISA provided the Subcommittee any justification for the drastic reorganization that is apparently well underway, nor has it explained how CISA will execute its congressionally mandated mission with a fraction of the workforce and resources. CISA must brief members of the Subcommittee on proposed changes to CISA's workforce and programs as soon as possible.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Eric Swalwell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and
Infrastructure Protection

⁵ Nicole Sganga, *Fired CISA Probationary Employees to be Reinstated After U.S. Judge's Order Last Week*, CBS NEWS (Mar. 17, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fired-cisa-probationary-employees-reinstated/>.

⁶ Kyle Cheney & Josh Gerstein, *Appeals Court Clears Way for Trump to Restart Mass Firings of Probationary Workers*, POLITICO (Apr. 9, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/04/09/trump-federal-worker-firing-court-case-00281834>.

⁷ Becky Bracken, *What CISA's Red Team Disarray Means for US Cyber Defenses*, DARK READING (Mar. 21, 2025), <https://www.darkreading.com/threat-intelligence/cisa-red-team-disarray-cyber-defenses>.

⁸ Jonathan Greig, *CISA cuts \$10 million annually from ISAC funding for states amid wider cyber cuts*, THE RECORD (Mar. 12, 2025), <https://therecord.media/cisa-cuts-10-million-isac-funding>.

⁹ Maggie Miller, *CISA's Next Cut Is the Deepest*, POLITICO (Apr. 7, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/weekly-cybersecurity/2025/04/07/cisas-next-cut-is-the-deepest-00276032>.

¹⁰ *Id.*