

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY/ DELIBERATIVE~~

DHS Disinformation Governance Board Charter

(b)(5)

Page 002

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 003

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY/ DELIBERATIVE~~

DHS Disinformation Governance Board Charter

(b)(5)

Page 005

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 006

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 007

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY/ DELIBERATIVE~~

DHS Disinformation Governance Board Charter

(b)(5)

Page 009

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 010

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

(b)(5)

SIGNATURE NEEDED BY DATE:

SUMMARY: DISINFORMATION GOVERNANCE BOARD CHARTER

ES 22-1140 WF 1226303 TYPE OF ACTION: S1 SIGNATURE

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY		CONTROL NUMBERS		SENIOR LIAISON OFFICER:
RECORD OF CLEARANCE AND APPROVAL		ES 22-1140	WF 1226303	(b)(6)
COMPONENT TASKED: PLCY	DRAFT DUE DATE: N/A	DRAFT RECEIVED DATE: 2/2/22		
DATE SUBMITTED TO S2 FO: 2/2/22	DATE SUBMITTED TO S1 FO: 2/24/2022	DATE APPROVED/SIGNED:		

SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT: DISINFORMATION GOVERNANCE BOARD CHARTER

ATTACHMENTS:

TAB 1: CHARTER

TAB 2: UKRAINE MDM PLAYBOOK

TAB 3: EFFORTS TO COUNTER DISINFORMATION MEMO (9/13/21)

CLEARED BY	DATE	CLEARED BY	DATE
PRIV (CPO Dupree)	1/11/22	CBP (DCOS Schorr)	1/12/22
CRCL (COS Abdelall)	1/12/22	FEMA (COS Coen)	1/12/22
OPA (DAS Bernstein)	1/12/22	S&T (ACOS Mcentee)	1/12/22
MGMT (DCOS Clayton)	1/13/22	I&A (ACOS Luke)	1/13/22
CISA (COS)	1/22/22	Counselor/Sam Vinograd	2/2/22

SIGNATURE NEEDED BY DATE	(b)(5)	REASON	(b)(5)
---------------------------------	--------	---------------	--------

OFFICE	SIGNATURE	DATE	COMMENTS
S2-DCOS	MEC	2/17	CLEAR
S2	J TIEN	2/17	CLEAR
S1 - DCOS	I. ULLOA	2/24	CLEAR
COS			
S1	<i>ANM</i>	<i>2/24/22</i>	

AFTER REVIEW RETURN TO:

(b)(6) EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

TELEPHONE

(b)(6)

APPROVED FOR AUTOPEN: ___ YES ___ NO DATE AND INITIALS FOR AUTOPEN APPROVAL: _____

From:	SHAH, SARASWATI (b)(6)
To:	O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY (b)(6)
CC:	ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6)
Subject:	Fwd: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter
Date:	2022/02/20 11:34:27
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Did this move from S2's office Kim? If not, I can ping MEC.

Sara Shah
Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
M: (b)(6)

From: O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 2:04:53 PM
To: ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6) SHAH, SARASWATI (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Good afternoon.

(b)(5) Per Ron, it is with S2 and (b)(5)
(b)(5)

See attached.

Kim

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 1:55 PM
To: SHAH, SARASWATI (b)(6)
Cc: O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Kim – is this ready to go? (b)(5)

From: SHAH, SARASWATI (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 1:51 PM
To: ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

MDM memo

From: O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 1:40 PM
To: SHAH, SARASWATI (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:09 AM
To: CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6) ULLOA, ISABELLA
(b)(6) Fauquet, Stephanie (b)(6) Schuster, Ronald
(b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY
(b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB
(b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT, GUSTAV (b)(6)
BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) CANEGALLO, KRISTIE (b)(6) Wales,
Brandon (b)(6) Chalkley, Marie (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Good morning all,

ESEC just received the attached updated clean version of the playbook. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Please let us know if there is anything else we can do to assist.

Warm regards,

(b)(6)

Office of the Executive Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(b)(6) (d) (b)(6) (c)

(b)(6)

From: CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:38 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6)
Fauquet, Stephanie (b)(6) Schuster, Ronald
(b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY
(b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB
(b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT, GUSTAV (b)(6)
BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) CANEGALLO, KRISTIE (b)(6) Wales,
Brandon (b)(6) Chalkley, Marie (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Marie – can you call me about this? (b)(5)

Mary Ellen Callahan
Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:23 AM
To: ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6) Fauquet, Stephanie
(b)(6) Schuster, Ronald (b)(6) CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY
(b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB
(b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT, GUSTAV (b)(6)
BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) CANEGALLO, KRISTIE (b)(6) Wales,
Brandon (b)(6) Chalkley, Marie (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Good morning all,

Attached, please find redline and clean versions of the playbook (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Please let us know if there is anything else we can do to assist.

Warm regards,

(b)(6)
Office of the Executive Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
(b)(6) (d) (b)(6) (c)
(b)(6)

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 5:48 AM
To: Fauquet, Stephanie (b)(6) Schuster, Ronald
(b)(6) CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6)

Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY
(b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB
(b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT, GUSTAV (b)(6)
BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) CANEGALLO, KRISTIE (b)(6) Wales,
Brandon (b)(6) Chalkley, Marie (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Thank you. Marie – could you let us know the status?

From: Fauquet, Stephanie (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 9:41 PM
To: Schuster, Ronald (b)(6) ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6)
CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY
(b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB
(b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT, GUSTAV (b)(6)
BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) CANEGALLO, KRISTIE (b)(6) Wales,
Brandon (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Thank you Ron! (b)(5)

(b)(5)
Thank you!

From: Schuster, Ronald (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 9:39:36 PM
To: ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6) CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY
(b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB
(b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT, GUSTAV (b)(6)
BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) CANEGALLO, KRISTIE (b)(6) Wales,
Brandon (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Isa,
Good evening. My understanding from a conversation with ESEC this afternoon is that (b)(5)
(b)(5)
(b)(5) I defer to ESEC for additional information and
developments.

Best regards,
Ron

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 9:16:53 PM
To: CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) Schuster, Ronald (b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY
(b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB
(b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT, GUSTAV (b)(6)
BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) CANEGALLO, KRISTIE (b)(6) Wales,
Brandon (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Hi all,

Any update on this? (b)(5) Thank you!

Isa

From: CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 8:37 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6)
Schuster, Ronald (b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY
(b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB
(b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT, GUSTAV (b)(6)
BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Thanks (b)(6) Please try to get (b)(5) Thanks.

Mary Ellen Callahan
Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 8:26 AM
To: CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6) ULLOA, ISABELLA
(b)(6) Schuster, Ronald (b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY
(b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB
(b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT, GUSTAV (b)(6)
BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Good morning all,

(b)(5)

Please let us know if there is anything else we can do to assist at this point.

Warm regards,

(b)(6)

Office of the Executive Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
(b)(6) (d) (b)(6) (c)
(b)(6)

From: CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 8:18 AM
To: ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6) Schuster, Ronald (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY
(b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB
(b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT, GUSTAV (b)(6)
BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Sure. ESEC – any response from the operational components that previously had not seen the Charter?

Mary Ellen Callahan
Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 7:25 AM
To: CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6) Schuster, Ronald
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY
(b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB
(b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT, GUSTAV (b)(6)
BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Thanks, MEC (b)(5)

From: CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2022 10:45:54 AM
To: Schuster, Ronald (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY (b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB (b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT, GUSTAV (b)(6) BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6) CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Hi - isa was checking on the status of this charter and whether any of the operational components had responded. Can you advise on status? Copying isa. Thanks.

Mary Ellen Callahan
Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 3:42 PM
To: Schuster, Ronald; (b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison; O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY; Blackwell, Juliana; BRAUN, JACOB; SEYLER-SCHMIDT, GUSTAV; BROOKS, REBECCA; (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

For awareness, I mentioned to COS Canegallo that (b)(5)
(b)(5) She agreed in principle with that approach. Mec

Mary Ellen Callahan
Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: Schuster, Ronald (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 3:41 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY (b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB (b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT, GUSTAV (b)(6) BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter
Importance: High

ESEC,

Good afternoon. Please circulate the Action Memo and attachments to all operational components for review and comment. Thanks.

Best regards,
Ron

Ronald K. Schuster
Senior Counselor,
Office of the Deputy Secretary
Department of Homeland Security

(b)(6) (desk)

(b)(6) (cell)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 2:30 PM
To: CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY
(b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB
(b)(6) Schuster, Ronald (b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT,
GUSTAV (b)(6) BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

DCOS:

Attached for your and S2's review and clearance, please find a memo and attachments regarding the Disinformation Governance Board Charter.

These documents were drafted by PLCY and OGC for S1's signature and they have been cleared by:

- • PRIV (CPO Dupree) – 1/11/22
- • CBP (DCOS Schorr) – 1/12/22
- • CRCL (COS Abdelall) – 1/12/22
- • FEMA (COS Coen) – 1/12/22
- • OPA (DAS Bernstein) – 1/12/22
- • S&T (ACOS Mcentee) – 1/12/22
- • MGMT (DCOS Clayton) – 1/13/22
- • I&A (ACOS Luke) – 1/14/22
- • CISA (COS) – 1/21/22

Sam Vinograd says she has already reviewed in her PLCY capacity.

We are asking for (b)(5)

Let us know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6)

DHS-HQ ESEC
Internal Team Lead

Desk: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

1226303 / 22-1140

John Tien
Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Sender:	SHAH, SARASWATI (b)(6) (b)(6)
Recipient:	O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY (b)(6) ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2022/02/20 11:34:25
Delivered Date:	2022/02/20 11:34:27
From:	Schuster, Ronald (b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
CC:	ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) (b)(6) CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: S2 LIST
Date:	2022/02/17 11:27:03
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Thanks, (b)(6) I just sent a gentle reminder to S2 that his clearance of the Disinformation Governance Board Charter pends. Hopefully, will have that cleared by the end of the day.

Ronald K. Schuster
Senior Counselor,
Office of the Deputy Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
(b)(6) (desk)
(b)(6) (cell)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 11:17 AM
To: Schuster, Ronald (b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6)
Subject: RE: S2 LIST

Good morning Ron,

The only item I am currently tracking is the Disinformation Governance Board Charter. As a heads up, we received a CFIUS case yesterday (b)(5)

(b)(5)

As always, please let us know if there is anything we can do to assist.

Warm regards,

(b)(6)
Office of the Executive Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
(b)(6) (d) (b)(6) (c)
(b)(6)

From: Schuster, Ronald (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 11:11 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6)
Subject: S2 LIST

Good morning (b)(6) Please let me know what items currently pend S2 clearance? Thanks.

Best regards,
Ron

Ronald K. Schuster
Senior Counselor,
Office of the Deputy Secretary
Department of Homeland Security

(b)(6) (desk)
(b)(6) (cell)

Sender: Schuster, Ronald (b)(6) (b)(5)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)

Recipient: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(5)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) (b)(5)
(b)(5)
(b)(6)
CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6) (b)(5)
(b)(5)
(b)(6)

Sent Date: 2022/02/17 11:27:02
Delivered Date: 2022/02/17 11:27:03

Packaged for S1

Status	WF#	ES#	From	Subject	Status Date	Final Due	Sig. Level	Team	Notes
Packaged for S1	1222969	21-4624	Mark Brnovich	Writes regarding Title 42	1/4/2022		(b)(5)	External	
Packaged for S1	1223406	21-4688	Rep. Stefanik	Writes to express concern over the recent report that an illegal immigrant was charged with murder in Jacksonville, Florida, after posing as an unaccompanied minor to enter the U.S.	1/24/2022			External	
Packaged for S1	1224455	21-6100	Sen. Johnson	Writes requesting data on DHS's workforce regarding telework.	1/26/2022			External	
Packaged for S1	1222289	21-3724	Chairman Peters	Writes requesting document production on the department's existing guidelines to detect and prevent domestic terrorist threats through social media.	2/2/2022			External	
Packaged for S1	1221022	21-3946	Sen. Warner +1	Write regarding Virginia state coordination with Operation Allies Welcome.	2/9/2022			External	
Packaged for S1	1221939	21-3743	Sen. Ernst	Writes requesting DHS halt operations surrounding OAW, to exclude SIV holders.	2/23/2022			External	

Packaged for DCOS/COS

Status	WF#	ES#	From	Subject	Status Date	Final Due	Sig Level	Team	Notes
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1217797	21-2052	Rep. Ross	Write urging DHS to consider administrative actions to provide protections for young people who have grown up in the US as dependents of nonimmigrant visa holders.	7/26/2021		(b)(5)	External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1218933	21-2098	Janti Soeripto	Writes offering the assistance of Save the Children in building the capacity of local shelters and social service agencies at the U.S. southern border.	9/28/2021			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1219411	21-2089	Sen. Tester	Writes urging CBP to encourage participation in the Department of Defense's (DOD) SkillBridge program.	10/20/2021			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1211675	21-1010	Sen. Young	Writes regarding that adversaries may seek to exploit the fact that CBP and ICE agents are being overwhelmed due to the border crisis.	10/26/2021			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1212442	21-1277	Rep. Tiffany	Writes with multiple questions concerning the crisis at the Southern Border.	12/14/2021			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1212961	21-1402	Sen. Menendez	Writes to urge the DHS to take additional steps to ensure federal law enforcement agencies are in full compliance with the Lautenberg Amendment	11/19/2021			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1219885	21-1480	Mark Brnovich	Writes regarding reports that USBP is releasing people with positive COVID test results	12/30/2021			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1220382	21-3286	Rep. Espaillat	Write to urge DHS to designate TPS for Afghan nationals within the United States.	1/19/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1222796	21-4616	Council on American-Islamic Relations	Response to the Council on American-Islamic Relations regarding concerns with the announcement of the Law Enforcement Coordination Council.	1/21/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1221865 1223195 1220167 1220206 1222391	21-3740 21-4682 21-3262 21-3258 21-3796	Sen. Padilla Rep. Tlaib Mikie Sherrill Esther Brimmer Danillo Sena	Write regarding humanitarian parole for Afghan evacuees.	1/26/2022			External	(b)(5)
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1220676 1221191 1222116 1220846	21-3928 21-3954 21-3790 21-3905	Rep. Bera Rep. Correa Sen. Blackburn Rep. Connolly	Write regarding the administration's plan for resettling Afghan refugees.	1/26/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1211834	21-0867	Sen. Blackburn	Writes regarding a \$86.9 million contract that ICE awarded to the Texas-based nonprofit Endeavors to house about 1,200 immigrants in hotel rooms.	1/26/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1220544	21-1258	Chairman Peters	Writes regarding SIV applicant screening for Afghan nationals.	1/20/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1214697	21-1286	Chairman Raskin	Oversight request regarding how DHS evaluated the dangers associated with militia violent extremists prior to the January 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.	1/28/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1220207	21-3259	Rep. Posey	Writes asking DHS to secure our border from any individual who would seek to bring harm to the American people.	2/9/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1225815	22-0004	Rep. Rosen	Request that DHS include \$10,000,000 for CISA's Cybersecurity Education and Training Assistance Program (CETAP) in the President's Budget request for FY23.	2/9/2022		External		
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1222126	22-3985	Sen. Markey	Writes urging multiple departments to protect American infrastructure from the threat of ransomware.	2/9/2022		External		

Packaged for DCOS/COS

Status	WF#	ES#	From	Subject	Status Date	Final Due	Sig Level	Team	Notes
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1225108	21-6114	Sen. Klobuchar	Writes requesting an update on the implementation of recommendations made in the joint report, Examining the U.S. Capitol Attack	2/9/2022		(b)(5)	External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1224799	21-4790	Sen. Johnson	Writes regarding screening and vetting of Afghans	2/10/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1225316	21-6159	Rep. Lieu	Writes regarding Huawei and ZTE telecommunications technology.	2/12/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1226900	22-0707	Sen. Hawley	Writes with concern over the DHS's announcement to create a new Climate Change Professionals Program.	2/11/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1224518	21-6108	Sen. Ernst	Writes urging DHS and DOS immediately process the 6,000 Afghan refugees who are currently in third country locations awaiting their clearance to come to the United States.	2/14/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1225713	22-0003	Sen. Rosen	Write to request information on the implementation of the DHS and DOT responsibilities as Co-Sector Risk Management Agencies (co-SRMAs) for the nation's critical transportation infrastructure.	2/22/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1226536	22-0085	Rep. Stauber (+1)	Write regarding USCG's procurement of new vessels through the Waterways Commerce Cutter Program.	2/22/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1220146	21-3255	Rep. Jordan	Writes regarding DHS intention to use third-party contractors to spy on the social media communications of American citizens for signs of "extremist" threats.	2/22/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1223849	21-4749	Michael Marsh	Writes regarding vaccination requirements for H-2A workers.	2/22/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1227301	22-0718	Ambassador Kajzer	Voluntary letter to thank the Ambassador for a bottle of wine gifted to S1 for New Years	2/22/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1224753	21-6115	Vermont AG Donovan	Write regarding the use of Clearview AI by CBP in the state of Vermont.	2/22/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1223841	21-4743	Bill Frelick	Writes to inform of the upcoming publication of an HRW report documenting the persecution and other harms experienced by Cameroonian asylum seekers.	2/23/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1224583	21-4767	Rep. Katko	Regarding backlog of container ships at the San Pedro Bay Port complex in California.	2/23/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1225016	21-6415	Sen. Sinema	Writes recommending S1 prioritize communication with state, local, and tribal law enforcement in order to improve collaboration and information sharing.	2/22/2022			External	
Packaged for DCOS/COS	1226959	22-0018	Everett Kelley	Writes requesting that the DHS FY 2023 budget include funding for GS equivalent salaries for TSOs.	2/9/2022			External	(b)(5)

With Counselors

Counselor	WF#	ES#	From	Subject	As Of	Final Due	Signature	Team	Notes
Sam	1222404	21-3760	Ranking Member McClintock	Writes concerning the security risks posed by the release of 7,000 terrorists from Bagram Air Base combined with the porous southern border.	12/29/2021		(b)(5)	External	(b)(5)
Sheila, Sam, Angie H.	1220103	21-3090	RM Katko	Writes requesting information regarding various components plans to combat terrorist attacks to the homeland in response to the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan.	1/20/2022			External	
Beth	1223806	21-4651	Rep. Mast	Write regarding Executive Order 14043, requiring all federal employees be fully vaccinated by November 22, 2021.	1/20/2022			External	
Jotham	1225184	21-6144	Arian Hart	Writes regarding tribal monitoring for the Dixie Fire clean-up.	2/10/2022			External	
Sheila and Beth	1223978	21-4759	Rep. McKinley	Writes regarding the crisis at the border.	2/10/2022			External	
Sam	1219816	21-3240	Sen. Masto	Writes inquiring about the closure of the Department of Homeland Security's JIOC located in Tucson, Arizona.	2/10/2022			External	
Sam and Ron	1224311	21-4787	Todd Hauptli	Writes regarding reimbursement for airports that welcomed Afghan refugees through OAW	2/14/2022			External	
Sara / Cassie	1218077	21-2067	Rep. Garcia	Writes regarding citizenship for Afghan nationals who worked alongside U.S. Military in Afghanistan through the Special Immigrant Visa program.	2/15/2022			External	
Sara / Cassie	1220483	21-2050	AG Ferguson	Writes supporting the resettlement of Afghan nationals under the SIV program.	2/15/2022			External	
Sara / Cassie	1223319	21-4680	Rep. Hern	Writes requesting Afghanistan migrant information for the state of Oklahoma.	2/15/2022			External	
Sara / Cassie	1226384	22-0013	Rep. Lieu	Writes regarding 200 Afghan female judges and lawyers remain in Afghanistan	2/15/2022			External	
Sam	1222098	21-3755	Homaira Hosseini	Writes regarding strategic use of TPS and DED to protect Afghan nationals.	2/17/2022			External	
Beth	1220139	21-3295	Rep. Schiff	Writes asking for information about the nature and extent of domestic terrorism.	2/17/2022			External	
Angie H.	1226797	22-0090	Sen. Padilla	Writes requesting that DHS's budget request for FY 2023 seek adequate staffing funds for CBP.	2/18/2022			External	
Sam	1227969	22-0795	Sen. Blackburn	Writes regarding her concerns about the appearance of the DHS policing the speech, thoughts, and opinions of American citizens.	2/22/2022			External	
Sheila	1227091	22-0725	Rep. Panetta	Writes requesting that DHS implement reforms to the H-2A visa program in order to improve the petition process.	2/23/2022			External	
Sheila	1226298	22-0052	Sen. Gillibrand	Writes requesting that the U.S.-Canadian border remains open despite the Omicron wave.	2/23/2022			External	
Ron	1227744	22-0849	Rep. Katko	Writes regarding acceptable ID for migrants at checkpoints.	2/24/2022			External	
Sheila	1219890	21-3082	Rep. Roy	Writes regarding the number of people apprehended at the SWB this year.	2/23/2022			External	

DHS-001-02015-000412

Ukraine MDM Playbook
Version 12, as of 2/22/2022

(b)(5)



Page 028

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 029

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 030

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 031

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 032

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 033

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 034

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 035

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 036

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 037

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 038

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 039

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 040

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 041

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 042

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 043

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY/ DELIBERATIVE~~

The Disinformation Governance Board

(b)(5)

Page 045

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 046

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 047

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Significant Correspondence Report



5.2.22

Control Number	Date Received	To	From	Summary	Counselor	Tasked	Signature Level	Priority Level	Priority Due Date	Secretary Notes
1231689 22-2388	04.29.22	S1	Sen. Hagerty (TN)	Writes regarding the creation of the Disinformation Governance Board.	Kevin Beth	PLCY	(b)(5)			
1231690 22-2389	04.29.22	S1	Rep. Turner (OH) +1	Write requesting information on the Disinformation Governance Board.	Kevin Beth	PLCY				
1231695 22-2392	05.02.22	S1	AG Schmitt (MO)	Writes with concerns over the Disinformation Governance Board.	Kevin Beth	PLCY				
1231688 22-2371	05.02.22	S1, Sec. Blinken, Sec. Becerra	Governor Whitmer (MI)	Writes regarding federal financial and social support available to various immigrant populations.	Immigration Team	PLCY				
1231036 22-2321	05.02.22	S1	Rep. Jordan (OH)	Hearing follow up.	Immigration Team	PLCY				

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

RECEIVED

By ESEC at 5:31 pm, Apr 29, 2022

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

On April 27, 2022 at a House Appropriations Committee hearing, you announced the creation of a “Disinformation Governance Board” that will focus on “countering misinformation and disinformation” in America. Separately, Nina Jankowicz announced that she will be employed as the board’s Executive Director. I write today because these actions merit review by Congress, both as a general matter, as well as under the Congressional Review Act and because the actions may be in violation of provisions of the Antideficiency Act.

Establishment of this board will significantly impact Americans’ free speech rights and cuts across numerous areas of government and society. It will change the relationship between the government and the governed to whom it answers. It will also substantially increase administrative costs for the number of different federal agencies engaged in this effort, which will impose increased costs on the American taxpayer.

Given this broad impact, Congress should be setting American policy in this area and certainly reviewing executive action impacting such fundamental rights, and therefore, it is imperative that this action receive congressional review.

Additionally, I write to confirm that you will comply with the requirements of the Congressional Review Act (CRA) in taking this action. Under the CRA, an agency action that falls within the definition of a “rule” must be submitted to Congress for review before it can take effect. 5 U.S.C. § 801(a)(1)(A). “The definition of a rule under the CRA is very broad.” Government Accountability Office B-323772, at 3 (Sept. 4, 2012), *available at* <https://www.gao.gov/assets/b-323772.pdf>. In pertinent part, the CRA defines a rule as: “the whole or a part of an agency statement of general or particular applicability and future effect designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy or describing the organization, procedure, or practice requirements of an agency.” 5 U.S.C. § 551(4). This is not limited to directives requiring notice, public comment, or similar Administrative Procedure Act procedures.

Further, this action may also be a direct violation of provisions of the Antideficiency Act (31 U.S.C. § 1341(a)(1)(A)), which prohibits “making or authorizing an expenditure from, or creating or authorizing an obligation under, any appropriation or fund in excess of the amount available in the appropriation or fund unless authorized by law.”

In this case, it appears that the amount available for this action is “none” and that Congress explicitly defunded it, just weeks ago. Section 513 of Division F of the Fiscal Year 2022 Omnibus Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-103) specifically prohibits the Secretary of Homeland Security from using any funds provided by Congress to carry out Section 872 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which means it defunded any action to “allocate or reallocate functions among the officers of the Department of Homeland Security or to establish, consolidate, or alter organizational units within the Department of Homeland Security.”

As you know, an officer or employee, including you, who violates the Antideficiency Act “shall be subject to appropriate administrative discipline,” and, for willful violations, faces a criminal fine, imprisonment, or both. A federal employee who willfully violates the Antideficiency Act, “shall be subject to appropriate administrative discipline including, when circumstances warrant, suspension from duty without pay or removal from office.” A federal employee who “knowingly and willfully” violated it “shall be fined not more than \$5,000, imprisoned for not more than 2 years, or both.”

Plainly, this DHS Disinformation Governance Board imposing significant constraints on the bedrock of American values and freedoms and new costs on the American people requires congressional review and may be a violation of the Antideficiency Act. So that Americans’ elected representatives may timely review the rules and policies implementing this action as required under federal law, please confirm by Monday, May 16, that you will submit it to Congress before it purports to take effect. Further, in order to comply with the Antideficiency Act, you will need to submit a letter to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the President, the Congress, and the Comptroller General of the United States providing specific information on the violation if it has indeed occurred.

Thank you, and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Hagerty". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Hagerty
United States Senator

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

RECEIVED

By ESEC at 5:31 pm, Apr 29, 2022

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We write to express our profound concern with the Department of Homeland Security's recent creation of a "Disinformation Governance Board".¹ In testimony before Congress, you stated that the Board's purpose would be to "combat disinformation" ahead of the November midterms.² According to media reports, as executive director of the Board, the Administration has chosen Nina Jankowicz, formerly a "disinformation fellow" at the Wilson Center.³

Given the complete lack of information about this new initiative and the potential serious consequences of a government entity identifying and responding to "disinformation," we have serious concerns about the activities of this new Board, particularly under Ms. Jankowicz's leadership. Among other things, she stated publicly that the Hunter Biden laptop should be "view[ed] as a Trump campaign product."⁴ Following Elon Musk's recent purchase of Twitter, Ms. Jankowicz tweeted: "I shudder to think about if free speech absolutists were taking over more platforms."⁵

To further our investigation of this matter and in preparation of Fiscal Year 2023 funding decisions, we request that you provide the following information:

¹ See, e.g., Katelyn Caralle, "Biden sets up 'Disinformation Board' headed by Russia expert who called Hunter's laptop a 'Trump campaign product' and said she 'shudders to think' about Elon Musk taking over Twitter," Daily Mail, Apr. 27, 2022, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10760907/Biden-starts-Disinformation-Board-led-Russia-expert-called-Hunters-laptop-Trump-product.html>.

² Bradford Betz, "Mayorkas testifies DHS is creating 'Disinformation Governance Board'," Fox News, April 27, 2022, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/mayorkas-dhs-disinformation-governance-board>.

³ Wilson Center, <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/person/nina-jankowicz>.

⁴ "Explainer: Trump seizes on dubious Hunter Biden-Ukraine story," N.Y. Daily News, Oct. 15, 2020, <https://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/us-elections-government/ny-election-2020-biden-20201015-7xixsgtexpfenjgjjv62ryiyism-story.html>.

⁵ <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1518643449225953287>.

1. All documents and communications in your agency's possession referring or relating to the creation of the Disinformation Governance Board, including any assessment of the need for such an entity.
2. All documents and communications in your agency's possession referring or relating to the use of Intelligence Community resources for the creation or activities of the Disinformation Governance Board, or activities related to its mission.
3. All documents and communications in your agency's possession referring or relating to the appointment of Nina Jankowicz as Executive Director of the Disinformation Governance Board.

Please provide this information as soon as possible, but **no later than May 13, 2022**. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Ranking Member
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence



John Katko
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security

cc: The Honorable Avril Haines, Director of National Intelligence



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI
ERIC SCHMITT

April 29, 2022

Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, SW
Washington, D.C. 20528

RECEIVED

By ESEC at 10:52 am, May 02, 2022

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

At a congressional hearing Wednesday, you announced the establishment of a “Disinformation Governance Board” to focus the resources of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on the threat of “mis/disinformation.”¹ This statement should shock the very core of the American belief system, a threat to free speech that will rightly alarm freedom-loving people across America, including those in my home state of Missouri. This is because we know instinctively that shadowy government programs that promise protection from the “bogeyman” are in reality, clumsy attempts by deep-staters to slowly steal our liberties and invade our privacy step by step, while hoping we don’t notice. We are noticing.

Remarkably, the Biden Administration seems to believe it has both the wisdom and the authority to tell citizens what is true and what is false and what to believe and not believe. In what might well have been written as a response to DHS’s Orwellian announcement, the United States Supreme Court has clearly spoken on this subject, proclaiming that “Our constitutional tradition stands against the idea that we need Oceania’s Ministry of Truth.” *United States v. Alvarez*, 567 U.S. 709, 723 (2012) (per curiam) (citing G. Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949) (Centennial ed. 2003)).

Here in the “Show Me” State of Missouri, we have a reputation for being suspicious of big-government bureaucrats offering to “help”—especially when they ask us to give up a bit of “essential liberty” in exchange for their “paid protection.” There are very good reasons for our skepticism, not the least of which is that yesterday’s “misinformation” often becomes tomorrow’s established fact. It isn’t hard to find examples of this right in front of our noses.

In early 2020, social-media platforms began to censor speech suggesting that COVID-19 leaked from a lab in Wuhan, China. Any suggestions of the obvious in this case were met with cries of “conspiracies, misinformation and disinformation.” Today, the Wuhan lab leak

¹ <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/playbook/2022/04/27/fauci-pulls-out-of-whcd-is-biden-next-00028131>

possibility is widely accepted, including by the Biden Administration, and it is supported by compelling circumstantial evidence.

On the eve of the 2020 election, the Biden campaign and its allies attacked reports of scandalous and likely illegal information on a laptop belonging to Hunter Biden. Once again, this inconvenient story was labeled “disinformation.” Today, a year-and-a-half later, it is suddenly accepted as truthful.

Those of us against mask mandates were told we were spreading disinformation that might “kill grandma.” Today, there is overwhelming evidence that not only do masks not work in curbing the spread of disease, but they also are actually harmful to the social and educational development of our children, as well as their mental health.

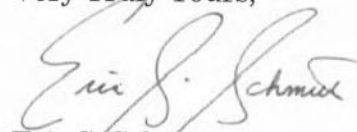
In fact, the Biden Administration frequently applies terms like “misinformation” and “disinformation,” not based on actual truth or falsity, but based on their preferred political narrative. This has resulted, again and again, in the suppression of truth and has given the American people good reason to look askance at the government’s efforts to control what we hear and read, the personal conclusions we come to about what is true and false and what we believe. This is frightening and extremely dangerous. We are thinking people. We needn’t have Big Government’s “help” in deciding what we think is true.

There is already a clear way to address false and misleading speech while respecting the rights of each and every citizen. It is called “more speech,” and it is enshrined in the First Amendment, the beating heart of our Constitution. “Society has the right and civic duty to engage in open, dynamic, rational discourse. These ends are not well-served when the government seeks to orchestrate public discussion through content-based mandates.” *Alvarez*, 567 U.S. at 728.

I also find curious the timing of this announcement. Based on this Administration’s pattern of censorship, the timing of the Disinformation Governance Board’s unveiling is suspicious, raising questions as to whether it is related to the purchase of Twitter by Elon Musk, who has publicly pledged to honor principles of free speech on the platform.

The people of this country are a free people who believe in and practice self-government. We revere our flag, and we respect the rule of law. We also understand that our rights, including the right to free speech, are God-given, not given by a king or queen or even a Disinformation Governance Board. So if you continue to try and trample on our free speech rights under the false banner of “disinformation,” on behalf of the citizens of the State of Missouri, I will fight this government overreach every single step of the way. The future of our Republic is at stake.

Very Truly Yours,



Eric S. Schmitt
Attorney General of Missouri

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY/ DELIBERATIVE~~

The Disinformation Governance Board

Charter

(b)(5)

Page 057

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 058

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 059

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Significant Correspondence Report



5.5.22

Control Number	Date Received	To	From	Summary	Counselor	Tasked	Signature Level	Priority Level	Priority Due Date	Secretary Notes
1231868 22-2408	5.5.22	S1	Sylvester Turner, Mayor of Houston	Writes requesting assistance from FEMA for Houston's recovery from Hurricane Harvey and asks for a meeting with Administrator Criswell.	Kristen	FEMA	(b)(5)			
1231869 22-2409	5.5.22	S1	Sen. Moran (KS) +6	Write regarding an OIG report regarding improper use of sole source contracts for housing migrant families.	Immigration Team	ICE				
1231889 22-2410	5.5.22	S1	Rep. Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (American Samoa)	Writes regarding visa processing for travel to and from American Samoa and requests a meeting with DHS personnel.	Immigration Team	USCIS				
1231888 22-2413	5.5.22	S1	Ranking Member Katko (NY) +12	Write regarding the recently established "Disinformation Governance Board" within the Department of Homeland Security.	Kevin Chris	PLCY				



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

May 5, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20593

RECEIVED
By ESEC at 11:28 am, May 05, 2022

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

It is with sincere concern that we write to you regarding the recently established “Disinformation Governance Board” within the Department of Homeland Security.¹ Your recent testimony and media statements regarding the board, as well as a recent briefing for Committee staff, have only created more questions and concern. This Committee will carry out rigorous oversight of this board.

In addition to further explanation regarding the establishment of the board, the American people deserve continued transparency surrounding the board’s discussions, decisions, and actions. To that end, we demand that you make publicly available on the Department’s website the following information:

1. The establishing charter of the Disinformation Governance Board, including the purpose, goals, and authority of such board, as well as any changes or updates to that charter as those occur going forward;
2. A list of current Disinformation Governance Board members, including the member’s position within the Department and appointing authority (Presidential Appointment with Senate Confirmation, Presidential Appointment without Senate Confirmation, Noncareer Senior Executive Service, Career Senior Executive Service, etc.), as well as any changes or updates to that list as those occur going forward;
3. A descriptive list of all budgetary expenses related to the operation of the Disinformation Governance Board;

¹ Laco, K. (2022, April 30). *Free speech concerns mount over DHS “disinformation” board as lawmakers, critics weigh in*. Fox News. <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/free-speech-concerns-dhs-disinformation-board-lawmakers-critics>

4. Details regarding the frequency of Disinformation Governance Board meetings and the planned agendas for the meetings;
5. Ongoing information on the establishment of any sub-groups, including working groups or task forces, which result from the Disinformation Governance Board's work;
6. Minutes and recommendations that result from any and all Disinformation Governance Board meetings, posted and subsequently archived; and
7. A list of private sector entities, including social media companies, which the Disinformation Governance Board and its members interact with, as well as details regarding those interactions.

As you are aware, information to this effect is made available by numerous government bodies, including but not limited to the Homeland Security Advisory Council.² Considering that fact, as well as the constitutional concerns which have arisen from the Department's involvement in matters such as this, these are standards that must be met for the sake of transparency.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please respond to this letter no later than May 23, 2022. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact Adrienne Spero on the Committee staff at (202) 226-8417.

Sincerely,



JOHN KATKO
Ranking Member



MICHAEL GUEST
Vice Ranking Member



AUGUST PFLUGER
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Intelligence & Counterterrorism



CLAY HIGGINS
Member of Congress

² U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2022, March 17). *Homeland Security Advisory Council*. Homeland Security Advisory Council | Homeland Security. Retrieved May 2, 2022, from <https://www.dhs.gov/homeland-security-advisory-council>



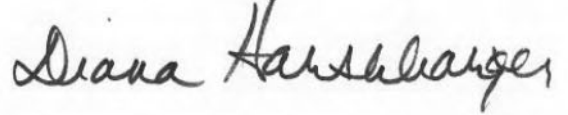
JEFF VAN DREW
Member of Congress



RALPH NORMAN
Member of Congress



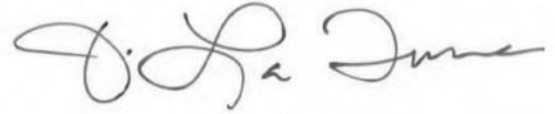
MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS, M.D.
Member of Congress



DIANA HARSHBARGER
Member of Congress



CARLOS A. GIMENEZ
Member of Congress



JAKE LATURNER
Member of Congress



PETER MEIJER
Member of Congress



KAT CAMMACK
Member of Congress



ANDREW R. GARBARINO
Member of Congress

Significant Correspondence Report



4.29.22

Control Number	Date Received	To	From	Summary	Counselor	Tasked	Signature Level	Priority Level	Priority Due Date
1231603 22-2390	4.28.22	S2	Hans-Georg Engelke State Secretary German Ministry of the Interior and Community	Writes informing S2 of the new German liaison officer for the Department of Homeland Security.	N/A	PLCY	(b)(5)		
1231627 22-2386	4.28.22	S1	Ambassador Philippe Étienne (France)	Invitation to S1 to la Soirée Michelin at the Résidence de France on May 4th.	N/A	PLCY			
1231641 22-2387	4.28.22	S1	Rep. Comer (KY) +18	Write to conduct oversight over the DHS's newly created "Disinformation Governance Board."	Kevin Beth	PLCY			
1231611 23-2291	4.29.22	S1	Eduardo Enrique Reina Garcia (Honduran Secretary of State)	Writes regarding U.S. - Honduran relations and TPS for Honduras.	Immigration Team	USCIS			

DHS-001-02015-000452

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

RECEIVED

By ESEC at 1:11 pm, Apr 29, 2022

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We write to conduct oversight over the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) newly created "Disinformation Governance Board" and continued efforts within the Biden Administration to suppress free speech and discredit legitimate criticism as misinformation. High-level Administration officials have perpetuated demonstrably false claims, including promoting the false narrative that the Hunter Biden laptop story was Russian disinformation¹ and that Border Patrol Agents were whipping Haitian migrants.² Rather than correct its false narratives and focus on the serious threats facing the homeland—including the crisis on our southern border—the Administration continues to falsely accuse political opponents of spreading misinformation. In most circumstances, the Administration's definition of "misinformation" is any fact or opinion that is critical of its abysmal policies and decisions. The United States' internal security apparatus must serve to protect the American people from threats to the homeland, not be weaponized by an unpopular President to push false narratives and discredit lawful discourse.

DHS is creating the Orwellian-named "Disinformation Governance Board" with a mission of "coordinat[ing] countering misinformation related to homeland security, focused specifically on irregular migration and Russia."³ Nina Jankowicz, a former Fulbright-Clinton Public Policy Fellow, has been tapped to lead the board as its Executive Director.⁴ Ms. Jankowicz recently derided defenders of the First Amendment as "free speech absolutists" engaged in "abuse" against "marginalized communities,"⁵ promoted the work of Christopher

¹ Jen Psaki (@jrpsaki), Twitter (Oct. 19, 2020, 10:45pm) available at <https://twitter.com/jrpsaki/status/1318382779659411458> ("Hunter Biden story is Russian disinfo, dozens of former intel officials say").

² Liptak, Kevin & Kate Sullivan, *Biden and Harris harshly condemn horseback wrangling depicted in images from US-Mexico Border*, CNN NEWS (Sept. 24, 2021).

³ Daniels, Eugene, Rachael Bade & Ryan Lizza, *Fauci pulls out of WHCD. Is Biden next?*, POLITICO PLAYBOOK (Apr. 27, 2022).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), Twitter (Apr. 25, 2022, 1:29pm) available at <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1518643449225953287> ("Last week I told @NPRMichel: I shudder to think

Steele, the author of the widely discredited Steele dossier whose main sources were exposed as criminals,⁶ and promoted the false narrative that the Hunter Biden laptop story was Russian disinformation.⁷ Her public comments indicate that she is a partisan; neither a defender of the First Amendment, nor possessing instincts that would make her a credible arbiter of truth. Her many public statements undermining First Amendment freedoms further call into question the purpose of the “Disinformation Governance Board,” and signal that it is likely being set up to provide political cover for an unpopular Administration and to launder political attacks against its opponents.

It is no surprise the Administration is not pleased that the consequences of its disastrous policy decisions have led to unfavorable media coverage and the loss of the American people’s trust. The haphazard and poorly planned withdrawal from Afghanistan, rampant inflation, and the crisis on the border are difficult to hide. The creation of the “Disinformation Governance Board” appears to double down on this Administration’s continued abuse of taxpayer dollars and the federal government’s powers to attack Americans who disagree with its policies, smearing them as extremists and perpetrators of “mis- dis- and mal-information.”⁸ Whether maligning opponents of the Administration’s COVID-19 vaccine and mask mandates as “domestic violent extremists,”⁹ or smearing parents concerned with ensuring their children receive a quality, in-person education as domestic terrorists,¹⁰ the Administration appears dead-set on suppressing opinions in opposition to its radical agenda.

It comes as no surprise that the “Disinformation Governance Board” will begin to focus on promoting the Administration’s narrative around “irregular migration,” likely promoting the demonstrably false claim repeated constantly by senior Administration officials that the Administration is creating a “safe, orderly, and humane immigration system.”¹¹ In fact, the Administration has already been caught trying to prevent unfavorable media coverage of the border crisis by banning media drones during a surge in Del Rio, Texas last year.¹² Instead of laundering the facts of the border crisis—which is anything but “safe, orderly, and humane”—through a lens of Administration-approved talking points, DHS political leadership should cease

about if free speech absolutists were taking over more platforms, what that would look like for the marginalized communities...which are already shouldering...disproportionate amounts of this abuse.”)

⁶ Dunleavy, Jerry, *Biden’s ‘disinformation’ chief Trump dossier author fan and Hunter Biden laptop doubter*, WASH. EXAMINER (Apr. 28, 2022).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ See National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin, U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Security (Feb. 7, 2022).

⁹ See *id.* (“Meanwhile, COVID-19 mitigation measures – particularly COVID-19 vaccine and mask mandates – have been used by domestic violent extremists to justify violence since 2020 and could continue to inspire these extremists to target government, healthcare, and academic institutions that they associate with these measures.”)

¹⁰ See Memorandum for Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, et. al. from Merrick B. Garland, Attorney General re *Partnership among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff* (Oct. 4, 2021).

¹¹ See Memorandum for Interested Parties from Alejandro N. Mayorkas, Secretary, Dep’t of Homeland Security re: DHS Plan for Southwest Border Security and Preparedness (Apr. 26, 2022) (“Under the Biden-Harris Administration, the Department of Homeland Security... has been executing a comprehensive and deliberate strategy to secure our borders and build a safe, orderly, and humane immigration system.”).

¹² See Letter from James Comer, Rankin Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform to Steve Dickson, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, (Sept. 21, 2021).

Secretary Mayorkas

April 29, 2022

Page 3 of 5


their efforts to cater to radical open-borders advocates and their allies, and instead work to implement policies that will actually solve the crisis.

To assist Republicans on the Committee on Oversight and Reform in conducting oversight over the conversion of DHS's resources into a political advocacy arm of the Biden campaign, as well as the potential implications for freedom of speech in our country, please provide the following documents and information, no later than May 13, 2022:

1. All documents and communications between and among DHS employees, regarding the creation of the "Disinformation Governance Board," including, but not limited to, any reference to its mission and goals, the legal authority for creating the Board, and the proposed funding for the Board;
2. All documents and communications between DHS employees and any other agency, including White House staff, regarding the creation of the "Disinformation Governance Board";
3. All documents and communications regarding the selection of Nina Jankowicz as the Executive Director of the "Disinformation Governance Board;"
4. All documents and communications regarding the proposed staffing and selection criteria for members or employees of the "Disinformation Governance Board;" and
5. All documents and communications regarding any DHS definition of or criteria for determining what constitutes "disinformation," including a list of employees authorized to make a determination as to whether a particular claim constitutes "disinformation."

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. To make arrangements to deliver documents or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican Staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

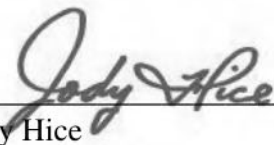
Sincerely,



James Comer

Ranking Member

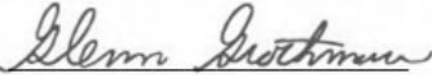
Committee on Oversight and Reform



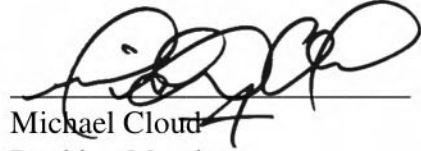
Jody Hice

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Government
Operations



Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



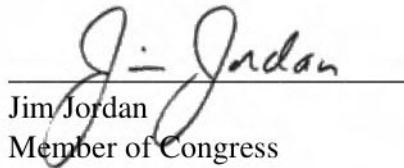
Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



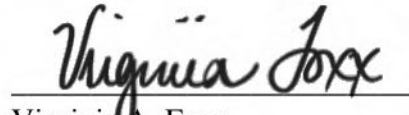
Ralph Norman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment



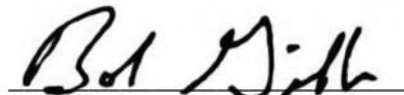
Nancy Mace
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties



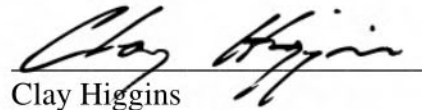
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



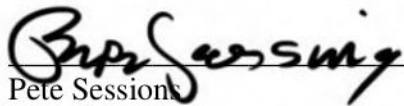
Virginia A. Foxx
Member of Congress



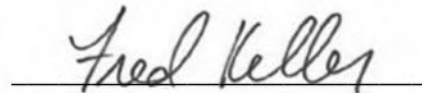
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



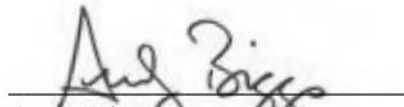
Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



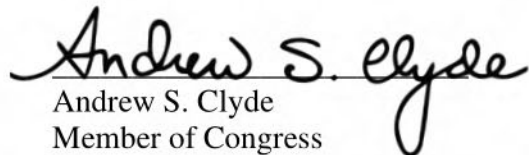
Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Fred Keller
Member of Congress



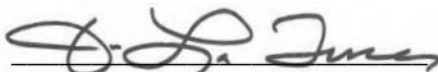
Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress

Secretary Mayorkas

April 29, 2022

Page 5 of 5



Pat Fallon
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

From:	(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6)
Subject:	FW: MDM briefing for KC tomorrow
Date:	2022/02/04 12:30:30
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Got it!

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 12:28 PM
To: BAILEY, MARIA (b)(6) ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Cc: SHAH, SARASWATI (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: MDM briefing for KC tomorrow

Hi – thanks so much for reaching out

ESEC would have the latest (just not sure if it changed since it left Rob!)

Looping in ESEC to assist – do you mind sharing the disinformation governance board package with Maria?

Maria – Rob concurred with adding it to the meeting invite when I spoke with him yesterday.

Sam

From: BAILEY, MARIA (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 12:26 PM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA (b)(6)
Subject: RE: MDM briefing for KC tomorrow

Sam, do you have the disinfo governance board package ready? I’ve had to shift the mtg to Monday at 11 am now.

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 3, 2022 11:59 AM
To: BAILEY, MARIA (b)(6)
Subject: RE: MDM briefing for KC tomorrow

Sounds right!

From: BAILEY, MARIA (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 3, 2022 11:59 AM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA (b)(6)
Subject: RE: MDM briefing for KC tomorrow

Will do, should I add a "close-hold" request?

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 3, 2022 11:57 AM
To: BAILEY, MARIA (b)(6)
Subject: RE: MDM briefing for KC tomorrow

Fab!

Rob is amenable to including the disinfo governance board package in the meeting request so that folks have it in advance. I will share a copy with you to add if that works for you

From: BAILEY, MARIA (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 3, 2022 11:55 AM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA (b)(6)
Subject: RE: MDM briefing for KC tomorrow

Hi—not cxld just moved to next week, Wed, 9 Feb @ 4pm to accommodate Rob who wanted to present. I see it on your calendar. –mdb

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 3, 2022 11:45 AM
To: BAILEY, MARIA (b)(6)
Subject: FW: MDM briefing for KC tomorrow

Hi – did this meeting get canceled? Thx!

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 8:37 PM
To: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA (b)(6); BAILEY, MARIA (b)(6); SHAH, SARASWATI (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6)
Cc: SILVERS, ROBERT (b)(6)
Subject: Re: MDM briefing for KC tomorrow

That would be great, Sam, barring any concerns from Rob. Thank you.

From: VINOGRAD, SAMANTHA (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 7:59:26 PM
To: BAILEY, MARIA (b)(6); SHAH, SARASWATI (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6)

Subject: MDM briefing for KC tomorrow

Isa - (b)(5)
(b)(5)

Thx

Sender:	(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Recipient:	ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2022/02/04 12:30:29
Delivered Date:	2022/02/04 12:30:30

Significant Correspondence Report



5.4.22

Control Number	Date Received	To	From	Summary	Counselor	Tasked	Signature Level	Priority Level	Priority Due Date	Secretary Notes
1231821 22-2404	5.4.22	S1	Protect Democracy	Writes regarding significant concerns about the "Disinformation Governance Board."	Kevin Chris	PLCY	(b)(5)			
1231842 22-2405	5.4.22	S1	Rep. Goosar (AZ)	Writes regarding sDisinformation Governance Board.	Kevin Chris	PLCY				



May 3, 2022

Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th St., SW
Washington, DC 20528

RECEIVED
By ESEC at 10:50 am, May 04, 2022

Re: Significant Concerns Regarding the “Disinformation Governance Board”

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We write on behalf of Protect Democracy, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University to express our concern regarding last week’s announcement that the Department of Homeland Security has established a “Disinformation Governance Board.”¹ Disinformation causes real harms, but the Constitution limits the government’s role in combating disinformation directly, and the government can play no useful role at all in the absence of public trust. The announcement of this Board, housed in a Department with a checkered record on civil liberties and without clarity and specificity on its mandate, has squandered that trust.

The initial report revealing the Board’s existence provided that the Board would “immediately begin focusing on misinformation aimed at migrants, a problem that has helped to fuel sudden surges at the U.S. southern border in recent years,” as well as “monitor and prepare for Russian disinformation threats.”² In an interview over the weekend, you further noted that the Board will “work[] to ensure that the way in which we address threats—the connectivity between threats and acts of violence—are addressed without infringing on free speech, protecting civil rights and civil liberties—the right of privacy. The Board . . . will draw from best practices and

¹ Amanda Seitz, *Disinformation Board to Tackle Russia, Migrant*, Assoc. Press (Apr. 28, 2022), <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-immigration-media-europe-misinformation-4e873389889bb1d9e2ad8659d9975e9d>.

² *Id.*

communicate those best practices to the operators”³ You also said that American citizens would not be monitored.⁴ Yesterday, the Department issued a statement providing that “[t]he Department identifies disinformation that threatens the homeland through publicly available sources, research conducted by academic and other institutions, and information shared by other federal agencies and partners” and “then shares factual information related to its mission to potentially impacted people and organizations.”⁵ The statement specifies that the Board was formed “with the explicit goal of ensuring . . . protections [for freedom of speech, civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy] are appropriately incorporated across DHS’s disinformation-related work and that rigorous safeguards are in place.”⁶ It also notes that the Board will “seek[] to coordinate the Department’s engagements on this subject with other federal agencies and a diverse range of external stakeholders.”⁷

We acknowledge and appreciate the Department’s recognition that mis- and disinformation is a significant problem, particularly with respect to non-English speaking communities.⁸ Those who intentionally spread disinformation can distort public discourse, interfere with elections, and undermine democracy. While we do not believe that there is a single solution to the problem of disinformation, among the solutions needed are the provision of timely, accurate, and trustworthy information by the government, as well as longer term support for education initiatives focused on media literacy. To the extent that the Board would simply ensure that the Department responds to publicly reported disinformation campaigns with timely, accurate information, we would generally welcome such an effort. In the 2020 election, for example, the Department’s Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency offered a timely

³ *Mayorkas: Disinformation Board Won’t Monitor American Citizens*, CNN (May 1, 2022), <https://edition.cnn.com/videos/politics/2022/05/01/mayorkas-on-disinformation-board.cnn>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Fact Sheet: DHS Internal Working Group Protects Free Speech and Other Fundamental Rights When Addressing Disinformation That Threatens the Security of the United States*, Dep’t of Homeland Sec. (May 2, 2022), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/05/02/fact-sheet-dhs-internal-working-group-protects-free-speech-other-fundamental-rights>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *See, e.g., A Growing Threat: The Impact Of Disinformation Targeted At Communities Of Color Hearing Before Subcommittee on Elections H. Comm. on H. Admin., 117th Cong. (Apr. 28, 2022), available at <https://cha.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/growing-threat-impact-disinformation-targeted-communities-color>.*

rebuttal to claims that there was widespread fraud in the 2020 election.⁹ That is one kind of work that the government can and should do to counteract disinformation.¹⁰

But for the government to play its appropriate role effectively, it must build trust and demonstrate a commitment to abiding by the strict limitations the Constitution places on its ability to combat disinformation, described in some more detail below. The way in which the Department has publicly announced the Board has fallen short on those fronts. Moreover, for the reasons below, we do not believe such an initiative should be housed at the Department. If the Administration is committed to housing it at the Department, though, the Department should at a minimum impose clear restrictions on the Board to ensure that it does not engage in more constitutionally suspect activities.

To the extent that the Board or the Department intends to take any measures to prohibit disinformation or otherwise punish the spread of disinformation or to engage in constitutionally suspect monitoring of communications of individuals in the United States or of citizens abroad, we urge the Department to reconsider for two primary reasons.

First, “[i]f there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein.”¹¹ Our First Amendment prohibits such efforts, and for good reason. We have learned the hard way that government initiatives to root out disfavored speech and ideas are dangerous and unwise.¹² Any effort to prohibit or punish the spread of “disinformation” by the Department would likely fall outside of what the Constitution permits, absent extraordinary circumstances and outside narrow categories of speech.

⁹ *Joint Statement from Elections Infrastructure Government Coordinating Council & The Election Infrastructure Coordinating Executive Committees, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency* (Nov. 12, 2020), <https://www.cisa.gov/news/2020/11/12/joint-statement-elections-infrastructure-government-coordinating-council-election>.

¹⁰ Another kind of work the government can and should do is to study emerging tools of disinformation and make recommendations on how to combat those tools, like “deep fakes.” See *Portman, Schatz, Ernst, Heinrich, Gardner, Peters, Rounds, Hassan Praise Senate Passage of Bipartisan Bill to Assess & Address Rising Threat of Deepfakes*, Rob Portman (Oct. 25, 2019), <https://www.portman.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/portman-schatz-ernst-heinrich-gardner-peters-rounds-hassan-praise-senate>.

¹¹ *W. Virginia State Bd. of Educ. v. Barnette*, 319 U.S. 624, 642 (1943).

¹² *E.g., New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 254, 273–74 (1964) (recounting the history of the Sedition Act of 1798, which was motivated in part by an effort to tamp down on misinformation, and noting that “[a]lthough the Sedition Act was never tested in [the Supreme] Court, the attack upon its validity has carried the day in the court of history”).

Second, the Department has a history of flouting the Constitution in flagrant ways. It is one of the least politically accountable agencies in our federal government,¹³ and it has often violated individuals' civil liberties. The Department has a particularly poor track record when it comes to "monitoring" individual's First Amendment-protected activities. From illegally surveilling Reverend Kaji Douša after she spoke out against the Trump Administration's immigration policies,¹⁴ to gathering intelligence on reporters that cover the Department,¹⁵ to monitoring the social media accounts of visa applicants,¹⁶ the Department has demonstrated a readiness to cross the legal bounds of privacy and speech rights. We therefore take little comfort from the Department's assurances that it will "'protect privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties' as part of its duties."¹⁷

Even in the hands of well-intentioned, good-faith actors, any government board ostensibly tasked with monitoring and "govern[ing]" disinformation is a frightening prospect; in the wrong hands, such a board would be a potent tool for government censorship and retaliation. The Department now seems to suggest that the primary purpose of the Board is to ensure that civil liberties are protected in activities the Department is already engaged in. If that is the case, it is unfortunate that that purpose was so obscured in a confusing rollout that invited misperception and undermined trust.

We welcome the Department's recognition of the serious problems posed by mis- and disinformation. But for the reasons above, we question whether the Board can play a useful role in combating mis- and disinformation at this point and would encourage you to reconsider the

¹³ Scott Welder, Christine Kwon & Jennifer Dresden, *There's Just One Department of Homeland Security. So Why Does It Have So Many Bosses in Congress?*, Wash. Post (Oct. 21, 2021), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/10/21/theres-just-one-department-homeland-security-so-why-does-it-have-so-many-bosses-congress/>.

¹⁴ See *Douša v. DHS*, Protect Democracy, <https://protectdemocracy.org/project/dousa-v-dhs/> (last visited May 2, 2022).

¹⁵ E.g., Shane Harris, *DHS Compiled 'Intelligence Reports' on Journalists Who Published Leaked Documents*, Wash. Post (July 30, 2020), https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/dhs-compiled-intelligence-reports-on-journalists-who-published-leaked-documents/2020/07/30/5be5ec9e-d25b-11ea-9038-af089b63ac21_story.html.

¹⁶ See *Doc Society v. Blinken*, Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, <https://knightcolumbia.org/cases/doc-society-v-blinken>.

¹⁷ Amanda Seitz, *Disinformation Board to Tackle Russia, Migrant, Assoc. Press* (Apr. 28, 2022), <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-immigration-media-europe-misinformation-4e873389889bb1d9e2ad8659d9975e9d>.

Board's existence or, at a minimum, promptly provide further clarity on the kinds of specific activities the Board will engage in and the activities it will be prohibited from engaging in. Should you wish to discuss this letter or our position, please contact John Langford, at john.langford@protectdemocracy.org or (202) 579-4582.

Sincerely,

Protect Democracy
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Knight First Amendment Institute at
Columbia University

PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S.
FOURTH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

2057 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2315

122 N. CORTEZ STREET, SUITE #104
PRESCOTT, AZ 86301
(928) 445-1683

6499 SOUTH KINGS RANCH ROAD, SUITE #4
GOLD CANYON, AZ 85118
(480) 882-2697

220 N. 4TH STREET
KINGMAN, AZ 86401
(928) 445-1683

WWW.GOSAR.HOUSE.GOV



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEES
RANKING MEMBER, OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEES
ENVIRONMENT
NATIONAL SECURITY

May 4, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

RECEIVED

By ESEC at 1:42 pm, May 04, 2022

Re: The "Disinformation Governance Board"

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

I am writing about the decision to create a bizarre "Disinformation Governance Board" at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Its sole function is to spy on American citizens, using authorization under the Patriot Act. Your job, and the DHS', was to protect Americans from foreign threats. You have now created an internal police force that is based on political speech and political concerns.

This board is not only unconstitutional and purely partisan, but it is a Soviet-style attempt to obliterate freedom of speech. Congress has not authorized this new department or funded it. Your DHS' February 7, 2022 terrorism bulletin cites a "heightened threat environment" due to domestic terrorism. The bulletin also states that "there is widespread online proliferation of false or misleading narratives regarding unsubstantiated widespread election fraud and COVID-19." And that "grievances associated with these themes inspired violent extremist attacks during 2021."

Almost every sentence is either false or at least subject to dispute. Certainly, there has been false information about the 2020 election and COVID-19. Most of it just happens to come from the Administration itself. But even if you disagree with that, you are not free to label this difference of opinion as "terrorism" and set up an illegal internal secret police. This is an outrageous abuse of civil rights and free speech.

My constituents were forced by the federal government to stay home, not go to school, and shut their businesses. Many were compelled to inject experimental and untested foreign biological material into their body. Many were denied proper treatment for COVID-19 while they watched other nations in real time successfully treat their citizens with remedial and effective drugs. The people have a right to speak about this and share their perspectives and displeasure, without the DHS declaring them terrorists or sharers of disinformation.

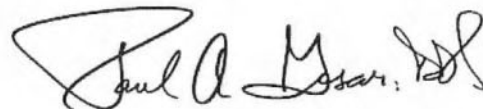
This Administration's efforts to propagandize and mislead Americans is not limited to your new Censorship Board. In February 2021, the DOD ordered a "directed standdown" "to address the issue of extremism in the ranks." 62.9% of all new money requested by DOJ in FY 2022 was for the purpose of fighting "domestic violent extremists"—which included the hiring of 299 new employees. And in October 2021, Attorney General Garland directed the full force of federal law enforcement against parents outraged over their children's indoctrination in support of sexual deviancy, pedophilia, grooming, and sexual mutilation in the name of gender dysphoria. Parents should be outraged, and you should be ashamed to support the sexual mutilation of our children. But at the very least you should end your efforts to classify these parents as terrorists.

Please also respond to the following questions:

1. Could you explain why violence from BLM and Antifa is not listed as violent extremism?
2. Can you explain why the recent mass killings by two Black Nationalists were not deemed domestic violent extremism?
3. Could you please list all the "violent extremist attacks in 2021?" Your bulletin and testimony are entirely devoid of evidence.
4. Could you please list property damage and lives lost due to "violent extremist attacks in 2021"?
5. Please list and identify all monetary damage and lives lost due to BLM riots in the summer of 2020?
6. Please identify all congressional sources authorizing a censorship board as being constructed by your office.
7. What is the amount you are budgeting for the new disinformation board?

Thank you for addressing my concerns. Please adhere to all rules and regulations when addressing these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Gosar" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

From: (b)(6)
(b)(6)
To: ESEC-Internal Liaison /o (b)(5)
(b)(6) (b)(5)
(b)(6)
Subject: FW: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter
Date: 2022/02/04 07:35:18
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

(b)(5) I wasn't aware of a deadline
either

(b)(6)
Office of the Executive Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
(b)(6) (d) (b)(6) (c)
(b)(6)

From: CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 3, 2022 6:29 PM
To: Fauquet, Stephanie (b)(6) ULLOA, ISABELLA
(b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY
(b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB
(b)(6) Schuster, Ronald (b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT,
GUSTAV (b)(6) BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Hi all – not sure why concurrent review is needed, since there wasn't a deadline on this. With that said, I

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Happy to discuss, mec

Mary Ellen Callahan
Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: Fauquet, Stephanie (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 3, 2022 6:10 PM
To: CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6) ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY (b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB (b)(6) Schuster, Ronald (b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT, GUSTAV (b)(6) BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Adding DCOS Ulloa for concurrent review.

Thank you!

Stephanie Fauquet

Assistant Executive Secretary

for Communications and Operations

Office of the Executive Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(b)(6) (d) (b)(6) (c)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 2:30 PM
To: CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY (b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB (b)(6) Schuster, Ronald (b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT, GUSTAV (b)(6) BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

DCOS:

Attached for your and S2's review and clearance, please find a memo and attachments regarding the Disinformation Governance Board Charter.

These documents were drafted by PLCY and OGC for S1's signature and they have been cleared by:

- • PRIV (CPO Dupree) – 1/11/22
- • CBP (DCOS Schorr) – 1/12/22
- • CRCL (COS Abdelall) – 1/12/22
- • FEMA (COS Coen) – 1/12/22
- • OPA (DAS Bernstein) – 1/12/22
- • S&T (ACOS Mcentee) – 1/12/22
- • MGMT (DCOS Clayton) – 1/13/22
- • I&A (ACOS Luke) – 1/14/22
- • CISA (COS) – 1/21/22

Sam Vinograd says she has already reviewed in her PLCY capacity.

We are asking (b)(5)

Let us know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DHS-HQ ESEC

Internal Team Lead

Desk: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

1226303 / 22-1140

Sender:	(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Recipient:	ESEC-Internal Liaison / (b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(5) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2022/02/04 07:35:16
Delivered Date:	2022/02/04 07:35:18

PREP FOR SUNDAY SHOW INTERVIEWS
April 29, 2022

Overview:

- You will participate in three Sunday show interviews (7-8 minutes each):
 - 8:00am CNN – In studio Pretape with Dana Bash
 - 8:30am Fox News – In Studio Pretape with Bret Baier
 - 9:00am NBC – In studio LIVE with Chuck Todd
- The interviews will focus on the Administration’s preparations ahead of the termination of Title 42 and your recent Congressional hearings.

Topline Messages:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Attachments:

- A. Tough Q&A
- B. Biographies

Staff Responsible for Briefing Memo: Marsha Espinosa, (b)(6)

ATTACHMENT A: TOUGH Q&A

(b)(5)



ATTACHMENT B: BIOGRAPHIES



Dana Bash

Dana Bash is CNN's chief political correspondent and co-anchor of State of the Union with Jake Tapper and Dana Bash, the network's Sunday morning newsmaker show. Bash is based in Washington, D.C., where she covers both campaigns and Congress and regularly serves as a moderator for CNN's political town hall specials.

She also moderated CNN's first debate of the 2020 election cycle in Detroit, as well as the last Democratic Presidential Debate of the cycle held in Washington, D.C. Bash also anchored special coverage of Election Night in America surrounding the 2020 election, which lasted several days until CNN was the first to project Joe Biden as the winner. Bash is the winner of the National Press Foundation's 2019 Sol Taishoff Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism.

Bash played a key role in CNN's 2016 presidential primary debates, serving as a questioner in six of the network's seven primetime primary debates on both sides of the aisle. Bash also serves as a co-anchor on set in the CNN Election Center for all election night specials. As part of her coverage of the 2016 presidential campaigns, Bash conducted sit-down interviews with majority of the candidates including Donald Trump, Senators Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and Bernie Sanders, and Governors Jeb Bush and John Kasich.

Bash also continues to be instrumental to the network's Capitol Hill coverage. In 2015, she broke news on live television that House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy would not be running for Speaker of the House and also conducted Speaker John Boehner's final interview on his last day in office. Bash also served as the lead correspondent covering former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's 11-hour testimony before the House Select Committee on Benghazi.

Bash graduated cum laude with her bachelor's degree in political communications from The George Washington University.



Bret Baier

Bret Baier currently serves as FOX News Channel's (FNC) anchor and executive editor of Special Report with Bret Baier (weeknights at 6-7PM/ET) and chief political anchor of the network. He joined FNC in 1998 as the first reporter in the Atlanta bureau and is now based in Washington, DC.

Most recently, Baier has provided live breaking news coverage surrounding Russia's invasion of Ukraine, interviewing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba. Throughout his tenure at FNC, Baier has played a critical role in every major political event since joining the network.

Prior to his anchor role, Baier was named chief White House correspondent in 2006 and covered the second term of the George W. Bush administration. Before that, he served as national security correspondent covering military and national security affairs, as well as defense, military policy and the intelligence community from the Pentagon.

As FNC's Southeastern correspondent from 1998 to 2001, he covered a range of stories, including the 2001 Timothy McVeigh execution and the 1999 Elian Gonzalez story. He has also provided a series of reports from Cuba and covered more than a dozen hurricanes.

Prior to joining FNC, Baier worked for WRAL-TV (CBS 5) in Raleigh, NC, WREX-TV (NBC 13) in Rockford, IL and WJWJ-TV (PBS 2) in Beaufort, SC. A graduate of DePauw University, he has a B.A. in political science and English. He is also the author of four New York Times Best-Sellers.



Chuck Todd

Chuck Todd, NBC News political director and moderator of Meet the Press, spearheads the network's premier political coverage, offering insider analysis and translation of Beltway politics across all platforms – zeroing in on what really matters in Washington and why.

Todd is also a primary anchor for the network's primetime election coverage and is known for holding politicians and newsmakers accountable.

Prior to taking the helm of Meet the Press in September 2014, Todd served as NBC News chief White House correspondent (2008 - 2014), traveling around the world with President Obama and reporting on the main pillars of his presidency, including the passage of the Affordable Care Act. From 2010 to 2014, Chuck also hosted MSNBC's The Daily Rundown, featuring daily interviews with top congressional members.

In 2007, Tim Russert, then-Washington bureau chief and Meet the Press moderator, recruited Todd to join NBC News as the network's political director. Prior to joining NBC News, Todd worked at the National Journal's "The Hotline" for 15 years, serving for six of those years as the editor-in-chief.

Todd is a native of Miami and currently resides in Arlington, Va. with his wife, Kristian, and two children.

From:	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)
To:	Fauquet, Stephanie / (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	ESEC-External Liaison / (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Subject:	RE: Letter re: Significant Concerns Regarding "Disinformation Governance Board"
Date:	2022/05/04 10:49:56
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Got it

From: Fauquet, Stephanie (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 10:48 AM
To: ESEC-External Liaison (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Letter re: Significant Concerns Regarding "Disinformation Governance Board"

Thank you!

Stephanie Fauquet

Assistant Executive Secretary

for Communications and Operations

Office of the Executive Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(b)(6) (d) (b)(6) (c)

(b)(6)

From: John Langford (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 5:44 PM
To: DHSSecretary (b)(6)
Subject: Letter re: Significant Concerns Regarding "Disinformation Governance Board"

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your component SOC with questions or concerns.

To Whom It May Concern:


Attached, please find a letter from Protect Democracy, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University to Secretary Mayorkas regarding our significant concerns about the "Disinformation Governance Board."

Thank you,

John Langford

--
John Langford
Counsel, Protect Democracy

(b)(6) | (b)(6)

	
Image removed by sender.	
Sender:	(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Recipient:	Fauquet, Stephanie / (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) ESEC-External Liaison / (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2022/05/04 10:49:55
Delivered Date:	2022/05/04 10:49:56

Significant Correspondence Report



4.28.22

Control Number	Date Received	To	From	Summary	Counselor	Tasked	Signature Level	Priority Level	Priority Due Date	Secretary Notes
1231587 22-2384	4.28.22	S1	Rep. Payne (NJ) +19	Write to urge S1 to show moral leadership for DHS employees that are impacted by new anti-LGBTQ laws and policies adopted in several states.	Beth	CRCL	(b)(5)			
1231590 22-2379	4.28.22	S1	Sen. Johnson (WI)	Writes concerning the DHS Disinformation Board.	Kevin	PLCY				
1231597 22-2385	4.28.22	S1, POTUS, Sec. Blinken	Rep. Brown (MD) +42	Write requesting TPS for Ethiopia.	Immigration Team	USCIS				
1231591 22-2380	4.28.22	S1	Sen. Hawley (MO)	Writes with concern about the Department of Homeland Security's decision to create a new Disinformation Governance Board	Kevin	PLCY				

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

RECEIVED
By ESEC at 8:54 am, Apr 28, 2022

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

I write to request information regarding the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) plans to create a "Disinformation Governance Board" to purportedly counter misinformation related to homeland security issues. On April 27, 2022, *Politico* reported DHS is particularly focused on information related to "irregular migration and Russia."¹ Nina Jankowicz confirmed reports that she will serve as this board's executive director.²

The Biden Administration has not proven itself to be a credible arbiter of "disinformation." Instead, it has taken steps to silence information that is unflattering to this Administration under the guise of "disinformation." For example, unnamed intelligence officials, the media, and social media platforms engaged in a coordinated effort to censor stories about Hunter Biden's laptop and his questionable financial dealings under the false label of "disinformation."³

In fact, Ms. Jankowicz herself has been a beacon of misinformation online. She has published multiple tweets furthering the false media narrative about the Hunter Biden laptop.⁴ In one tweet she wrote, "IC has a high degree of confidence that the Kremlin used proxies to push influence narratives, including misleading or unsubstantiated claims about President Biden, to US media, officials, and influencers, some close to President Trump. A clear nod to the alleged Hunter laptop."⁵ In another, she referred to the origins of how the media came into possession of the contents of Hunter Biden's laptop as a "fairy tale about a laptop repair shop."⁶ She has also

¹ Eugene Daniels, Rachael Bade, and Ryan Lizza, "POLITICO Playbook: Fauci Pulls out of WHCD. Is Biden next?" *POLITICO*, April 27, 2022, <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/playbook/2022/04/27/fauci-pulls-out-of-whcd-is-biden-next-00028131>.

² Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), Twitter (April 27, 2022, 7:17 AM), <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1519274470049042432>

³ Tyler Olsen, President Biden said Hunter laptop was Russian disinformation, but son now says it "could" be his," *Fox News*, Apr. 2, 2021, available at <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/president-biden-said-hunter-laptop-was-russian-disinformation-but-son-now-says-it-could-be-his>.

⁴ See Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), Twitter (Oct. 22, 2020, 8:15 AM), <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1319251093298302976> (promoting an article that questioned the accuracy of the *New York Post's* reporting on the Hunter Biden laptop); see also Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), Twitter (Oct. 22, 2020, 10:18 PM), <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1319463138107031553>.

⁵ Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), Twitter (March 16, 2021, 2:22 PM), <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1371889543582990336>.

⁶ Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), Twitter (Oct. 22, 2020, 8:39 AM), <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1319257015651368960>.

posted tweets pushing the Trump-Russia collusion hoax and another implying the United States is as corrupt as Ukraine.⁷

Now, DHS is creating a board to counter misinformation focusing on irregular migration and Russia and appointing a purveyor of misinformation to lead that effort.⁸ DHS is taking this action just weeks after announcing its plans to stop Title 42 expulsions at the southwest border, which has sparked a surge of illegal migrant crossing at the border, with CBP reporting an average of over 7,000 encounters a day in March 2022 compared with over 5,900 a day in February 2022.⁹ DHS even concedes it needs to be prepared to encounter 18,000 migrants a day at the southwest border once Title 42 is lifted.¹⁰

You claim this Administration's border policies are humane, but the crises caused by your policies have only added to the many tragedies caused by illegal immigration. I am concerned DHS's Disinformation Board will only serve to silence or censor those voices critical of your disastrous policies and serve a political cover for your failure to secure the border.

1. Provide the statute allowing DHS to create the Disinformation Board, appoint board members, and assign or hire staff.
2. How does DHS define "misinformation"?
3. What does DHS consider to be "irregular migration"?
4. What does DHS consider to be misinformation about irregular migration?
5. What DHS component or office is responsible for monitoring and collecting data on "misinformation"? How many staff are tasked with this assignment? What are their job descriptions and classifications?
6. What specific actions does DHS intend to take to "counter misinformation"?

⁷ See Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), Twitter (May 1, 2018, 6:50 AM), <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/991268617965600768>, see also Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), Twitter (Jan. 6, 2021, 3:50 PM) <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1346922196476706819>.

⁸ Eugene Daniels, Rachael Bade, and Ryan Lizza, "POLITICO Playbook: Fauci Pulls out of WHCD. Is Biden next?" POLITICO, April 27, 2022, <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/playbook/2022/04/27/fauci-pulls-out-of-whcd-is-biden-next-00028131>.

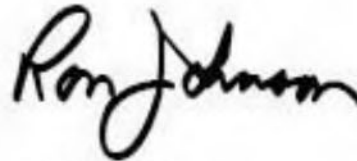
⁹ "Southwest Land Border Encounters," U.S. Customs and Border Protection, accessed April 27, 2022, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>.

¹⁰ Maria Sacchetti and Nick Miroff, "CDC to Phase out Border Restrictions; Increase in Crossings Expected," The Washington Post (WP Company, April 4, 2022), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/04/01/cdc-phase-out-border-restrictions-increase-crossings-expected/>.

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
April 27, 2022
Page 3 of 3

Please provide this information as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 6, 2022. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ron Johnson
U.S. Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2509

April 28, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20528

RECEIVED
By ESEC at 9:22 am, Apr 28, 2022

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

I write with deep concern about the Department of Homeland Security's decision to create a new Disinformation Governance Board. I confess, I at first thought this announcement was satire. Surely no American Administration would ever use the power of Government to sit in judgment on the First Amendment speech of its own citizens. Sadly, I was mistaken. Rather than protecting our border or the American homeland, you have chosen to make policing Americans' speech your priority. This new board is almost certainly unconstitutional and should be dissolved immediately.

For well over a year, your Department has consistently treated competing policy views as disinformation to be monitored or investigated. However, political debates on issues such as immigration, pandemic lockdowns, and foreign policy clearly constitute "core political speech" protected by the First Amendment.¹ The Supreme Court has even gone so far as to say that "Under the First Amendment there is no such thing as a false idea."² The apparent broad mandate of this new government entity to "coordinate countering misinformation" in America undermines the argument that it can even exist consistent with the Constitution.³

Particularly troubling is your choice to lead the new board, Nina Jankowicz, a supposed "expert" with a long history of partisan attacks. Consider:

- In 2020, she described President Trump's use of the national guard as "a sentence I expect to hear from leaders of authoritarian countries, not the President of the United States."⁴
- In 2021, she quoted with praise an article that said "homegrown fascism predated President Donald Trump."⁵
- She has said America is systemically racist.⁶
- In response to revelations about Hunter Biden's laptop, she tweeted that "50 former natsec officials and 5 former CIA heads that believe the laptop is a Russian influence op. Trump says 'Russia, Russia, Russia.'"⁷

¹ *Meyer v. Grant*, 486 U.S. 414, 422 (1988).

² *Gertz v. Robert Welch, Inc.*, 418 U.S. 323, 339 (1974).

³ <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/playbook/2022/04/27/fauci-pulls-out-of-whcd-is-biden-next-00028131>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1267589264440729600>

⁵ <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1321123630403694593>

⁶ <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1311123042387529734>

⁷ <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1319463138107031553?s=20&t=EZYZWppGDhzWKHE5ensHnQ>

Jankowicz has said the new DHS Board will “maintain the Dept’s committment [sic] to protecting free speech.”⁸ This is particularly ironic given Jankowicz’s extensive criticism of free speech and the First Amendment. Jankowicz has claimed that “the ‘free speech vs censorship’ framing is a false dichotomy.”⁹ And when Elon Musk announced his acquisition of Twitter, she said “I shudder to think about if free speech absolutists were taking over more platforms, what that would look like for the marginalized communities ... which are already shouldering ... disproportionate amounts of this abuse.”¹⁰ Jankowicz has even described opponents of social media speech codes as “first amendment zealots.”¹¹ These statements that question the value of free speech are obviously disqualifying for such a role.

While Democrats have for years controlled the public square through their Big Tech allies, Mr. Musk’s acquisition of Twitter has shown just how tenuous that control is. It can only be assumed that the sole purpose of this new Disinformation Governance Board will be to marshal the power of the federal government to censor conservative and dissenting speech. This is dangerous and un-American. The board should be immediately dissolved.

So that Congress can consider remedial legislation, please provide the following responses prior to your expected testimony before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on May 4, 2022:

1. How will this Disinformation Board function? And who exactly will it be monitoring?
2. What analysis did DHS conduct, if any, to ensure that the Disinformation Board and its activities comport with the First Amendment?
3. Why did DHS time its announcement of this governance board directly after Mr. Musk’s acquisition of Twitter?
4. Who appointed Ms. Jankowicz to head the board as executive director? Were you aware of her history of partisan conduct prior to her appointment?
5. Has DHS conferred with any private social media company in the creation or operation of this board?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Hawley". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Josh Hawley
United States Senator

⁸ <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1519282822158110721>

⁹ <https://twitter.com/JackPosobiec/status/1519397817260904454?s=20&t=ukuMjyeX1tNIuHKa1DmtGw>

¹⁰ <https://www.npr.org/2022/04/16/1093212502/women-face-disproportionate-attacks-online-one-expert-shares-some-of-the-details>

¹¹ <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1192897252328714240>

*Securing and Ensuring Order on the Southwest Border – HSGAC Hearing
Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 10:15am*



TESTIMONY OF

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

For a Hearing

BEFORE

U.S. Senate
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

ON

“Securing and Ensuring Order on the Southwest Border”

May 5, 2022
Washington, DC

(b)(5)

Page 103

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 104

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 105

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 106

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 107

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 108

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 109

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

*Securing and Ensuring Order on the Southwest Border – HSGAC Hearing
Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 10:15am*



TESTIMONY OF

Acting Assistant Secretary Blas Nuñez-Neto
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

For a Hearing

BEFORE

U.S. Senate
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

ON

“Securing and Ensuring Order on the Southwest Border”

May 5, 2022
Washington, DC

Page 111

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 112

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 113

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 114

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 115

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 116

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 117

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 118

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 119

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 120

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 121

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

*Securing and Ensuring Order on the Southwest Border – HSGAC Hearing
Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 10:15am*

(b)(5)



Page 123

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 124

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 125

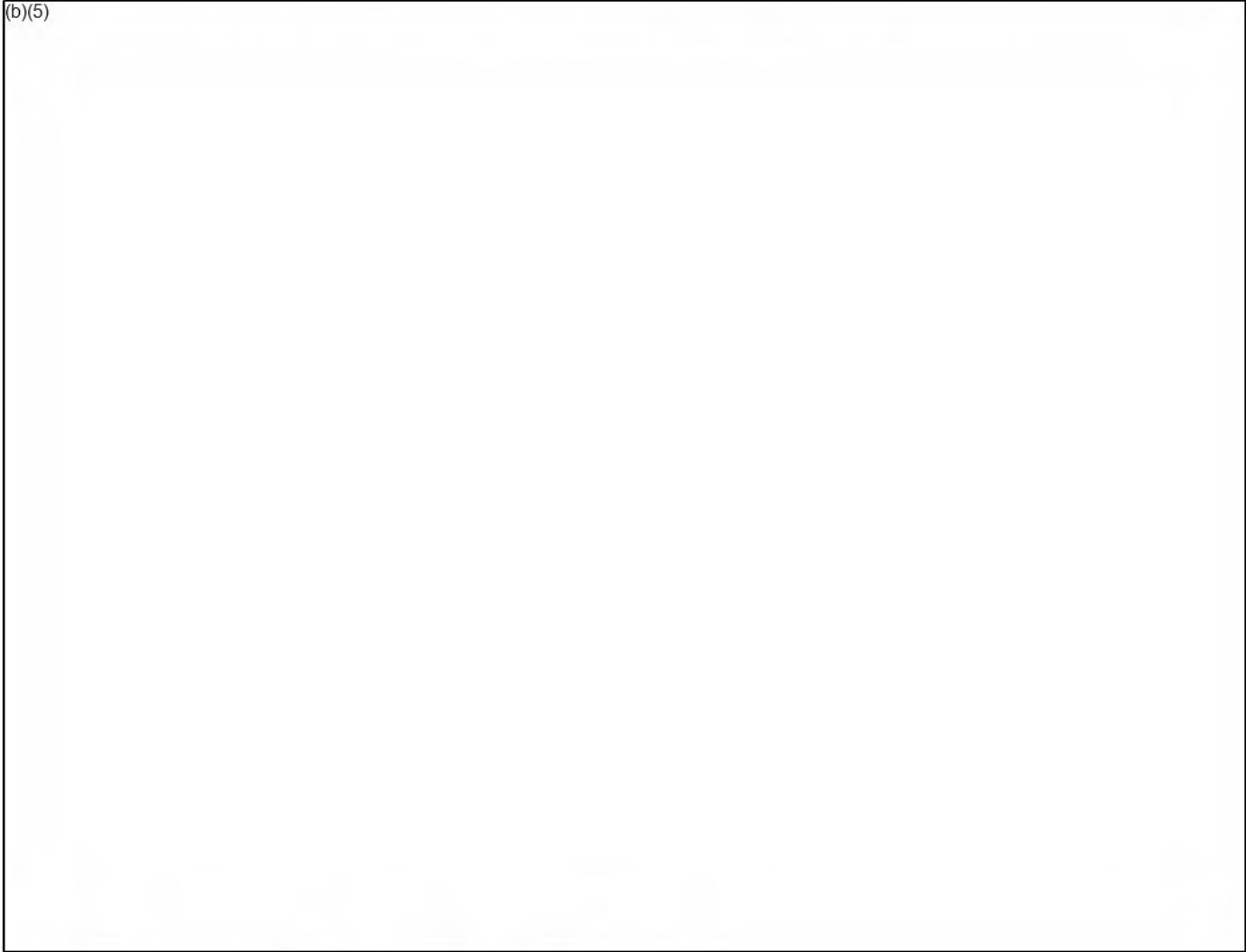
Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

*Securing and Ensuring Order on the Southwest Border – HSGAC Hearing
Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 10:15am*

(b)(5)



Significant Correspondence Report



5.3.22

Control Number	Date Received	To	From	Summary	Counselor	Tasked	Signature Level	Priority Level	Priority Due Date	Secretary Notes
1231729 22-2402	5.3.22	S1	Sen. Blackburn (TN)	Writes regarding the creation of the Disinformation Governance Board.	Kevin Chris	PLCY	(b)(5)			
1231743 22-2403	5.3.22	S1	Rep. Soto (FL)	Writes requesting that DHS and ICE investigate the reported delays at the Orlando Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility.	Immigration Team	PLCY				
1231777 22-2372	5.3.22	S1	Rep. Herrell (NM) +28	Writes regarding synthetic opioid epidemic and concern for the ending of Title 42. *Response requested by 5/13*	Immigration Team	CBP				

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
JUDICIARY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

May 3, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20528

RECEIVED

By ESEC at 10:29 am, May 03, 2022

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

I write to express my grave concern regarding the Department of Homeland Security's ("the Department") recent creation of the Disinformation Governance Board ("the Board"). In an April 27, 2022 hearing before the House Appropriations Subcommittee, you testified that the purpose of the Board is to "combat misinformation" ahead of the 2022 midterm elections in November.¹ Additionally, the Department defended its creation of the Board by citing the need to counter Russian disinformation and misleading information drawing migrants to the southern border.² The Department would be much better served by focusing its resources on securing our southern border. The creation of this Board has the appearance of an Orwellian government censorship operation.

I have serious concerns that the Board will be used to monitor and police the speech, thoughts, and opinions of American citizens under the guise of combating misinformation. I am particularly concerned that this administration will weaponize the Board as a political tool to discredit legitimate criticism of President Biden's policies. These concerns are substantiated by the appointment of Nina Jankowicz—who has a history of political partisanship and supporting dubious claims—as the Board's executive director. In 2020, Ms. Jankowicz promoted Christopher Steele,³ who produced a discredited dossier that alleged misconduct by the Trump 2016 presidential campaign. Prior to the 2020 presidential election, Ms. Jankowicz tried to discredit the Hunter Biden laptop story and stated that it "should be view[ed] as a Trump campaign product."⁴ Ms. Jankowicz has made a career out of silencing the speech of those with whom she disagrees.

¹ Betz, B. (2022, April 27). *Mayorkas testifies DHS is creating 'disinformation governance board'*. Fox News. Retrieved May 2, 2022, from <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/mayorkas-dhs-disinformation-governance-board>

² Seitz, A. (2022, April 28). *Disinformation Board to tackle Russia, migrant smugglers*. AP NEWS. Retrieved May 2, 2022, from <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-immigration-media-europe-misinformation-4e873389889bb1d9e2ad8659d9975e9d>

³ Jankowicz, Nina [@wiczipedia]. (2020, August 7). *Listened to this last night- Chris Steele (yes THAT Chris Steele) provides some great historical context about the evolution of disinfo. Worth a listen* [Tweet]. Twitter. <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1291692143262814209>

⁴ Tucker, E., & Braun, S. (2020, October 15). *AP explains: Trump seizes on dubious Biden-ukraine story*. AP NEWS. Retrieved May 2, 2022, from <https://apnews.com/article/election-2020-joe-biden-donald-trump-ukraine-elections-134406f28e826380924bbcf773d2c05a>

The Department's decision to task her with policing so-called disinformation will undoubtedly have a chilling effect on the speech of the millions of Americans who disagree with this administration's policies.

The creation of the Board just two days after Elon Musk purchased Twitter raises the specter that this Administration plans to step in to censor Americans' speech when private industry is unwilling to do so. Ms. Jankowicz herself even tweeted, "I shudder to think about if free speech absolutists were taking over more platforms."⁵ Ms. Jankowicz's criticism of "free speech absolutists" should give all Americans pause. It is clear that, with Ms. Jankowicz at the helm, this Board will focus its efforts on suppressing information that conflicts with the Biden administration's preferred narrative under the guise of "disinformation."

I urge you to disband the Disinformation Governance Board and make it clear to the American public that the Department of Homeland Security will not serve as a partisan tool to discredit criticism of the Biden administration. I also urge you to clarify that the Department and the federal government have no place interfering with the rights of all Americans to speak publicly about their political views, regardless of whether those views align with the political talking points of this Administration.

As the Secretary of Homeland Security, you took an oath to uphold our Constitution. Enshrined in the Constitution is the freedom of speech, and that includes the right to question the government and its preferred narrative. Speech that criticizes the administration's policies and failings falls within the heart of the First Amendment's protections. In fact, the Supreme Court has made it abundantly clear that this kind of "core political speech" is "the primary object of First Amendment protection."⁶ It is your duty as the Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that your Department does not interfere with this core protected speech in any way.

⁵ Jankowicz, Nina [@wiczipedia]. (2022, April 25). *Last week I told @NPRMichel: I shudder to think about if free speech absolutists were taking over more platforms, what that would look like for the marginalized communities...which are already shouldering...disproportionate amounts of this abuse.* [Tweet]. Twitter. <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1518643449225953287>

⁶ *Citizens United v. Fed. Election Comm'n*, 558 U.S. 310, 485 (2010) (Thomas, J. concurring in part and dissenting in part) (internal quotation marks omitted).

To provide transparency regarding this matter to the American public, I request that you respond to the following questions no later than May 20, 2022:

1. What authority do Ms. Jankowicz and the Board hold?
2. What are the sources of funding for the Board and its activities?
3. Were any outside groups or other federal agencies involved in creating or establishing the Board, including in the proposal to create the Board?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marsha Blackburn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator

From: O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY (b)(6)
(b)(6)
To: BAILEY, MARIA (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: FW: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter
Date: 2022/02/04 12:53:00
Priority: Normal
Type: Note

Draft documents attached.

From: ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 12:12 PM
To: CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6) Fauquet, Stephanie
(b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY
(b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB
(b)(6) Schuster, Ronald (b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT,
GUSTAV (b)(6) BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Thanks, MEC. I asked to see the draft because we are briefing Kristie on related work and wanted to get caught up to speed. Will include you in that meeting so we can discuss what you raise below. While there isn't a deadline, it would be great to get S1 this memo some time next week.

From: CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 3, 2022 6:29 PM
To: Fauquet, Stephanie (b)(6) ULLOA, ISABELLA
(b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY
(b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB
(b)(6) Schuster, Ronald (b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT,
GUSTAV (b)(6) BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6)
(b)(6) CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Hi all – not sure why concurrent review is needed, since there wasn't a deadline on this. With that said, I

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Happy to discuss, mec

Mary Ellen Callahan
Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

From: Fauquet, Stephanie (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 3, 2022 6:10 PM
To: CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6) ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY (b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB (b)(6) Schuster, Ronald (b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT, GUSTAV (b)(6) BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

Adding DCOS Ulloa for concurrent review.

Thank you!

Stephanie Fauquet

Assistant Executive Secretary
for Communications and Operations
Office of the Executive Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(b)(6) (d) (b)(6) (c)
(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 2:30 PM
To: CALLAHAN, MARY ELLEN (b)(6)
Cc: ESEC-Internal Liaison (b)(6) O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY (b)(6) Blackwell, Juliana (b)(6) BRAUN, JACOB (b)(6) Schuster, Ronald (b)(6) SEYLER-SCHMIDT,

GUSTAV (b)(6) BROOKS, REBECCA (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

Subject: Clearance Request: Disinformation Governance Board Charter

DCOS:

Attached for your and S2's review and clearance, please find a memo and attachments regarding the Disinformation Governance Board Charter.

These documents were drafted by PLCY and OGC for S1's signature and they have been cleared by:

- • PRIV (CPO Dupree) – 1/11/22
- • CBP (DCOS Schorr) – 1/12/22
- • CRCL (COS Abdelall) – 1/12/22
- • FEMA (COS Coen) – 1/12/22
- • OPA (DAS Bernstein) – 1/12/22
- • S&T (ACOS Mcentee) – 1/12/22
- • MGMT (DCOS Clayton) – 1/13/22
- • I&A (ACOS Luke) – 1/14/22
- • CISA (COS) – 1/21/22

Sam Vinograd says she has already reviewed in her PLCY capacity.

We are asking (b)(5)

Let us know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

DHS-HQ ESEC
Internal Team Lead

Desk: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

1226303 / 22-1140

Sender:	O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY (b)(6) (b)(6)
Recipient:	BAILEY, MARIA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent Date:	2022/02/04 12:53:53
Delivered Date:	2022/02/04 12:53:00

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-3951
judiciary.house.gov

May 5, 2022

Ms. Nina Jankowicz
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Ms. Jankowicz:

On April 27, 2022, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas testified that the Biden Administration had established a so-called “Disinformation Governance Board” to combat alleged disinformation and misinformation.¹ According to news reports, which you acknowledged on Twitter, you will lead the board as its executive director.² This Board is un-American, anti-democratic, and a dangerous escalation of the Biden Administration’s embrace of government-endorsed censorship. In addition, judging from your past statements, Americans can not and should not trust you with your newfound authority to act as the Biden Administration’s arbiter of the truth.

The Biden Administration has shown that it has, at best, a tenuous relationship with the truth. For example, President Biden has repeatedly and falsely asserted that facts about Hunter Biden’s business dealings with corrupt Ukrainian and Communist Party-linked Chinese nationals are Russian disinformation.³ President Biden made these assertions despite an independent Senate investigation substantiating many of the allegations.⁴ The *New York Post* has similarly reported on these dealings for years, and the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* have more recently confirmed much of the original reporting.⁵

¹ See, e.g., Bradford Betz, *Mayorkas testifies DHS is creating ‘Disinformation Governance Board’*, FOX NEWS (Apr. 27, 2022).

² Eugene Daniels et al., *POLITICO Playbook: Fauci pulls out of WHCD. Is Biden next?*, POLITICO (Apr. 27, 2022); Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), TWITTER (Apr. 27, 2022, 7:17 AM), <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1519274470049042432>.

³ See Tyler Olson, *President Biden said Hunter laptop was Russian disinformation, but some now says it ‘could’ be his*, FOX NEWS (Apr. 2, 2021).

⁴ STAFF OF THE S. COMM. ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND THE S. COMM. ON FINANCE, 116TH. CONG., HUNTER BIDEN, BURISMA, AND CORRUPTION: THE IMPACT OF U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY AND RELATED CONCERNS (Sept. 2020); STAFF OF THE S. COMM. ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND THE S. COMM. ON FINANCE, 116TH. CONG., MAJORITY STAFF SUPPLEMENTAL (Nov. 2020).

⁵ See, e.g., Emma-Jo Morris & Gabrielle Fonroque, *Smoking-gun emails reveals how Hunter Biden introduced Ukrainian businessman to VP dad*, N.Y. POST (Oct. 14, 2020); Katie Brenner et al., *Hunter Biden paid tax bill, but broad federal investigation continues*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 16, 2022); Matt Viser et al., *Inside Hunter Biden’s multimillion-dollar deals with a Chinese energy company*, WASH. POST (Mar. 30, 2022).

You have similarly propagated this and other misinformation.⁶ On October 14, 2020, you were quoted in an *Associated Press* article about Hunter Biden's laptop as saying it "should [be] view[ed] as a Trump campaign product."⁷ On October 22, 2020, you argued that the laptop story was "a [fairy] tale about a laptop repair shop."⁸ On March 16, 2021, you asserted that an intelligence community assessment about Russian and other foreign activities related to the 2020 election was a "clear nod to the alleged Hunter laptop."⁹ On April 2, 2021, despite your statements to the contrary, Hunter Biden conceded that the laptop may have been his, and the *New York Times* subsequently reported that he had abandoned the laptop at the Delaware repair shop.¹⁰

You have also pushed left-wing disinformation about the so-called "Steele Dossier," the false and tawdry set of allegations about President Trump generated and pushed by Democrat operatives during the 2016 election cycle. On April 22, 2020, you promoted the false narrative that the Steele Dossier "began as a Republican opposition research project."¹¹ In fact, it was "Hillary Clinton's campaign and the Democratic National Committee" that paid "Fusion GPS [beginning] in April [2016] for research that eventually became the basis for the dossier."¹² You later promoted an interview with Steele that you described as providing "some great historical context about the evolution of disinfo."¹³ You also promoted other theories, for instance about disclosures made by then-Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe, that turned out to be false.¹⁴

The establishment of the Biden Administration's Board and your appointment to lead it gives rise to considerable concerns about its effect on Americans' fundamental civil liberties. The ability of Americans to engage in robust debate and conversation is the foundation of American politics, and there is no place for a *de facto* ministry of truth in our government. The very idea of a ministry of truth should be revolting to all Americans who hold our Bill of Rights in high regard.

To assist the Committee in investigating this matter, please provide the following documents:

⁶ See, e.g., Jerry Dunleavy, *Biden 'disinformation' chief a Trump Dossier fan and Hunter Biden laptop doubter*, WASH. EXAMINER (Apr. 28, 2022).

⁷ Eric Tucker & Stephen Braun, *AP Explains: Trump seizes on dubious Biden-Ukraine story*, ASSOC. PRESS (Oct. 14, 2020).

⁸ Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), TWITTER (Oct. 22, 2020, 8:39 AM), <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1319257015651368960>.

⁹ Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), TWITTER (Mar. 16, 2021, 2:22 PM), <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1371889543582990336>.

¹⁰ Olsen, *supra* note 4; Brenner et al., *supra* note 6.

¹¹ See Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), TWITTER (Apr. 22, 2022, 7:55 AM), <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1252928977586524161>.

¹² Kenneth P. Vogel & Maggie Haberman, *Conservative Website First Funded Anti-Trump Research by Firm That Later Produced Dossier*, N.Y. TIMES (Oct. 27, 2017).

¹³ Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), TWITTER (Aug. 7, 2020, 7:06 AM), <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1291692143262814209>.

¹⁴ See Dunleavy, *supra* note 7.

Ms. Nina Jankowicz

May 5, 2022

Page 3

1. All documents and communications referring or relating to the creation of the Board and your appointment as executive director;
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to the creation of the Board, including its mission and authorities, between or among the Department of Homeland Security and the Executive Office of the President; and
3. All documents and communications referring or relating to any coordination or other interaction between the Board and Twitter, Meta Platforms, or any other social media company.


Please provide this information as soon as possible, but not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2022. In addition, given the serious threat to free speech posed by the Administration's actions, we ask that you please make yourself available for a briefing with the Committee immediately so that we may address questions including but not limited to the following:


1. Do you stand by your earlier characterizations of Hunter Biden's laptop as "a Trump campaign product" and Russian misinformation?
2. In light of your previous comments in which you falsely characterized information with which you disagreed as "disinfo," how do you define misinformation and disinformation?
3. What information and data do you intend to collect and from what sources?
4. What safeguards, if any, will you implement to ensure you respect the First Amendment rights of all Americans, not just those with whom you agree?
5. What specific actions will you take to counter what it views to be misinformation or disinformation, and what approval will be necessary before you take that action?


Please schedule this briefing as soon as possible. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


Jim Jordan
Ranking Member


Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress


Darrell Issa
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Intellectual Property
and the Internet


Ken Buck
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial
and Administrative Law


Ms. Nina Jankowicz

May 5, 2022

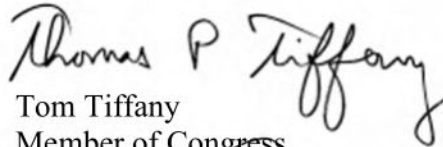
Page 4




Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress




Tom McClintock
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Immigration and
Citizenship



Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



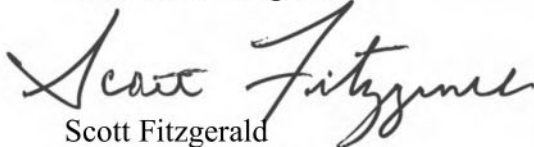
Thomas Massie
Member of Congress



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Chairman



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the Attorney General

Jason S. Miyares
Attorney General

202 North Ninth Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 786-2071
Fax (804) 786-1991
Virginia Relay Services
800-828-1120
7-1-1

May 5, 2022

Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Via Email and U.S. Mail

Re: DHS's Disinformation Governance Board Must Be Disbanded.

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

As the chief legal officers of our respective States, we the undersigned Attorneys General are tasked not just with enforcing the laws, but with protecting the constitutional rights of all our citizens. Today we write you to insist that you immediately cease taking action that appears designed exclusively for the purpose of suppressing the exercise of constitutional rights.

Every American knows that the Constitution forbids the government to "abridg[e] the freedom of speech." U.S. Const. Amend. I. As Justice Robert Jackson wrote nearly eighty years ago, "[i]f there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion." *West Virginia State Bd. of Educ. v. Barnette*, 319 U.S. 624, 642 (1943). Your recent testimony before the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security,¹ however, indicated that the Department of Homeland Security, under your leadership, is doing exactly that: prescribing orthodoxy by slapping a federal-government label of "disinformation" or "misinformation" on speech that government bureaucrats, operating behind closed doors, decree to be improper. This is an unacceptable and downright alarming encroachment on every citizen's right to express his or her opinions, engage in political debate, and disagree with the government. The Biden Administration's

¹ *Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on Homeland Security of the H. Appropriations Comm.*, 117th Cong. (Apr. 27, 2022), <https://tinyurl.com/2p96f7pt>.

latest effort to decide what speech is “acceptable” and “orthodox” combines McCarthyite speech policing with the secrecy of the English Star Chamber. In short, you seem to have misunderstood George Orwell: the “Ministry of Truth” described in *1984* was intended as a warning against the dangers of socialism, not as a model government agency. “MiniTru” and its thuggish apparatchiks are the villains in that story, not the heroes. For the sake of our democracy, you must immediately disband the “Disinformation Governance Board” and cease all efforts to police Americans’ protected speech.

The existence of the Disinformation Governance Board will inevitably have a chilling effect on free speech. Americans will hesitate before they voice their constitutionally protected opinions, knowing that the government’s censors may be watching, and some will decide it is safer to keep their opinions to themselves. The resulting damage to our political system and our culture will be incalculable: as a democracy, our political debates and decisions are supposed to take place in the public square, where every citizen can participate, rather than in government office buildings where hand-picked and unaccountable partisan committees are insulated from public supervision and criticism.

The timing of the Disinformation Governance Board’s creation is also highly suspect. For years, many have defended Twitter’s open censorship of voices hostile to the elite consensus by arguing that private companies enjoy the right to determine what is said on their platforms. This argument only works, however, if those private companies are not censoring on the government’s behalf. By its own admission, the Biden Administration has been “flagging problematic posts” on social media and coordinating with the private sector to regulate Americans’ free speech.² The President of the United States publicly urged social media companies to police “misinformation and disinformation” on their platforms.³ Suddenly, just as Elon Musk prepares to acquire Twitter with the stated purpose of correcting the platform’s censorship of free speech, you announce the creation of the Disinformation Governance Board. As the Biden Administration apparently loses a critical ally in its campaign to suppress speech it deems “problematic,” you have created a new government body to continue that work within the federal government. The contemporaneous occurrence of these two events is hard to explain away as mere coincidence. It instead raises serious questions about the extent of the Biden Administration’s practice of coordinating with private-sector companies to suppress disfavored speech.

² Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jen Psaki and Surgeon General Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, July 15, 2021, The White House (July 15, 2021), <https://tinyurl.com/bdsc4jhh> (“[W]e are in regular touch with these social media platforms, and those engagements typically happen through members of our senior staff . . .”).

³ Remarks by President Biden at Virtual Meeting on Military Deployments Supporting Hospitals for the COVID-19 Response, The White House (January 13, 2022), <https://tinyurl.com/45ezsejt> (“I make a special appeal to social media companies and media outlets: Please deal with the misinformation and disinformation that’s on your shows. It has to stop.”).

Virginia, like many other States, is preparing to conduct federal, state, and local elections beginning with early primary voting this week. Virginians are evaluating candidates and their platforms, trying to persuade their friends and neighbors, and debating the merits of innumerable political and moral questions, from international conflicts to local disputes. And just like always, the public conversation will include disputes over facts, and potentially even intentional misstatements of fact. But as Justice Brandeis explained long ago, “the remedy to be applied is more speech, not enforced silence.” *Whitney v. California*, 274 U.S. 357, 377 (1927) (Brandeis, J., concurring). Your censorship will not drown out misinformation; it will suppress the lawful speech of well-meaning but unpopular speakers, and it will turn bad actors into martyrs with far more influence than if you simply allowed “more speech” to combat their alleged misinformation.

No statutory authority exists to support your creation of a board of government censors. Although Congress has considered a variety of measures to address the perceived dangers of “disinformation” in the United States, none has passed.⁴ Instead, while the people’s elected representatives continue to debate this issue, you have arrogated to yourself the power to address it without congressional authorization, despite the far-reaching effects of the Disinformation Governance Board on Americans and our political process. “It is axiomatic that an administrative agency’s power to promulgate legislative regulations is limited to the authority delegated by Congress.” *Bowen v. Georgetown Univ. Hosp.*, 488 U.S. 204, 208 (1988). By flouting that essential check on the power of the Executive Branch, you undermine the separation of powers and dramatically overstep your authority and the jurisdiction of your agency.

There is perhaps no clearer illustration of the folly of the Disinformation Governance Board than the consistently poor judgment of the person you have made its executive director, Nina Jankowicz.⁵ Ms. Jankowicz—the self-styled “Mary Poppins of disinformation”⁶—is like so many who complain about misinformation and disinformation: she is often in error but never in doubt. She has previously suggested news that Hunter Biden’s laptop had been compromised was the product of a foreign disinformation campaign.⁷ She asserted that the theory tracing COVID-19 to a lab

⁴ See, e.g., COVID-19 Disinformation Research and Reporting Act of 2021, S. 913, 117th Cong. (2021); A Bill To Amend the Communications Act of 1934, S. 2448, 117th Cong. (2021).

⁵ Nina Jankowicz, The Wilson Center (last accessed May 1, 2022), <https://tinyurl.com/4xc7evwh>.

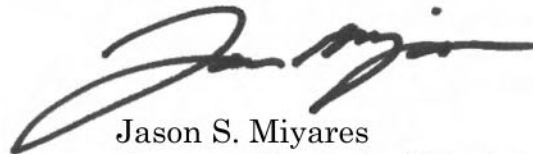
⁶ Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), Twitter (Feb. 17, 2021, 4:35 PM), <https://tinyurl.com/5amkbaa9>.

⁷ See, e.g., Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), Twitter (Oct. 22, 2020, 8:15 AM), <https://tinyurl.com/bddj7t5e>; Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), Twitter (Oct. 22, 2020, 10:18 PM), <https://tinyurl.com/53yfzyym>. But see Katie Benner, Kenneth P. Vogel, Michael S. Schmidt, *Hunter Biden Paid Tax Bill, but Broad Federal Investigation Continues*, N.Y. Times (Mar. 16, 2022), <https://tinyurl.com/yn6cptyt> (describing emails obtained from the laptop as “authenticated”).

leak in China was invented because it was “politically convenient for Trump,”⁸ although the intelligence community now assesses that this theory may very well be correct.⁹ She has even praised Christopher Steele, the discredited author of the infamous false “dossier” about President Trump, and one of the most notable peddlers of disinformation in recent memory.¹⁰ It would be amusing that a self-proclaimed expert in disinformation like Ms. Jankowicz has proven to be so bad at identifying it, except that you have placed her in charge of doing so on behalf of the United States government.¹¹ It is also extremely troubling that Ms. Jankowicz has described parents in Loudoun County, Virginia who object to the indoctrination of their children with Critical Race Theory as “disinformers” engaged in “disinformation for profit.”¹²

The Disinformation Governance Board, by its very existence, and almost certainly by design, threatens to “enforce silence” when Americans wish to express views disfavored by the Administration. It is therefore *already* chilling free speech and impeding the political process in Virginia and every other State. This is unconstitutional, illegal, and un-American. Unless you turn back now and disband this Orwellian Disinformation Governance Board immediately, the undersigned will have no choice but to consider judicial remedies to protect the rights of their citizens.

Sincerely,



Jason S. Miyares
Attorney General of Virginia

⁸ Ryan Broderick, *Scientists Haven’t Found Proof the Coronavirus Escaped from a Lab in Wuhan. Trump Supporters Are Spreading the Rumor Anyway.*, BuzzFeed News (April 22, 2020), <https://tinyurl.com/ytfmthpe>.

⁹ Michael R. Gordon, Warren P. Strobel, Drew Hinshaw, *Intelligence on Sick Staff at Wuhan Lab Fuels Debate on Covid-19 Origin*, Wall Street Journal (May 23, 2021), <https://tinyurl.com/ytesmtbd>.

¹⁰ Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), Twitter (Aug. 7, 2020, 7:06 AM), <https://tinyurl.com/yc3asr89>; Marshall Cohen, *The Steele dossier: A Reckoning*, CNN (Nov. 18, 2021), <https://tinyurl.com/3wwmyhet>.

¹¹ See also Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), Twitter (Apr. 25, 2022, 1:29 PM), <https://tinyurl.com/3r93he5p> (“I shudder to think about if free speech absolutists were taking over more platforms . . .”).

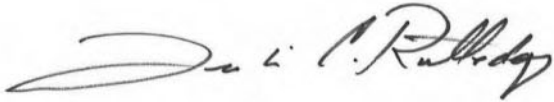
¹² Harriett Alexander, *Biden’s New Disinformation Czar Said Fears About CRT in Loudoun County Schools Are “Disinformation For Profit”—Despite Entire School Board Now Facing Being Voted Out Over Woke “Equity” Seminars For Teachers*, Daily Mail Online (May 5, 2022), <https://tinyurl.com/2p9yw7ur>.



Steve Marshall
Attorney General
State of Alabama



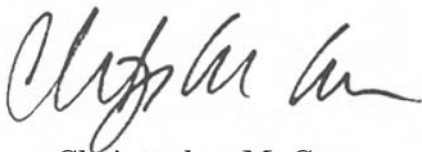
Mark Brnovich
Attorney General
State of Arizona



Leslie Rutledge
Attorney General
State of Arkansas



Ashley Moody
Attorney General
State of Florida



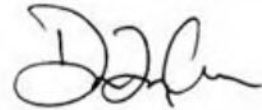
Christopher M. Carr
Attorney General
State of Georgia



Todd Rokita
Attorney General
State of Indiana



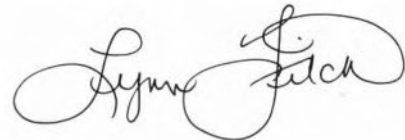
Derek Schmidt
Attorney General
Commonwealth of Kansas



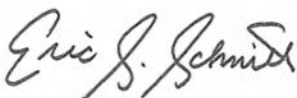
Daniel Cameron
Attorney General
State of Kentucky



Jeff Landry
Attorney General
State of Louisiana



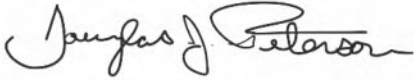
Lynn Fitch
Attorney General
State of Mississippi



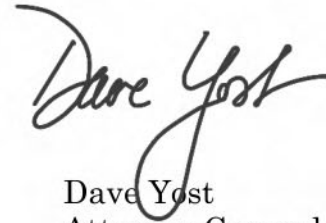
Eric Schmitt
Attorney General
State of Missouri



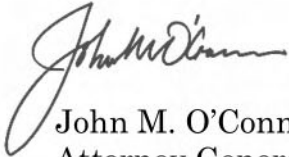
Austin Knudsen
Attorney General
State of Montana



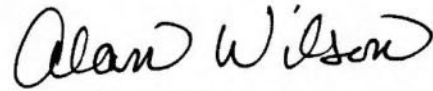
Douglas J. Peterson
Attorney General
State of Nebraska



Dave Yost
Attorney General
State of Ohio



John M. O'Connor
Attorney General
State of Oklahoma



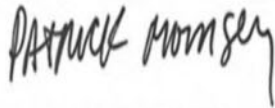
Alan Wilson
Attorney General
State of South Carolina



Ken Paxton
Attorney General
State of Texas



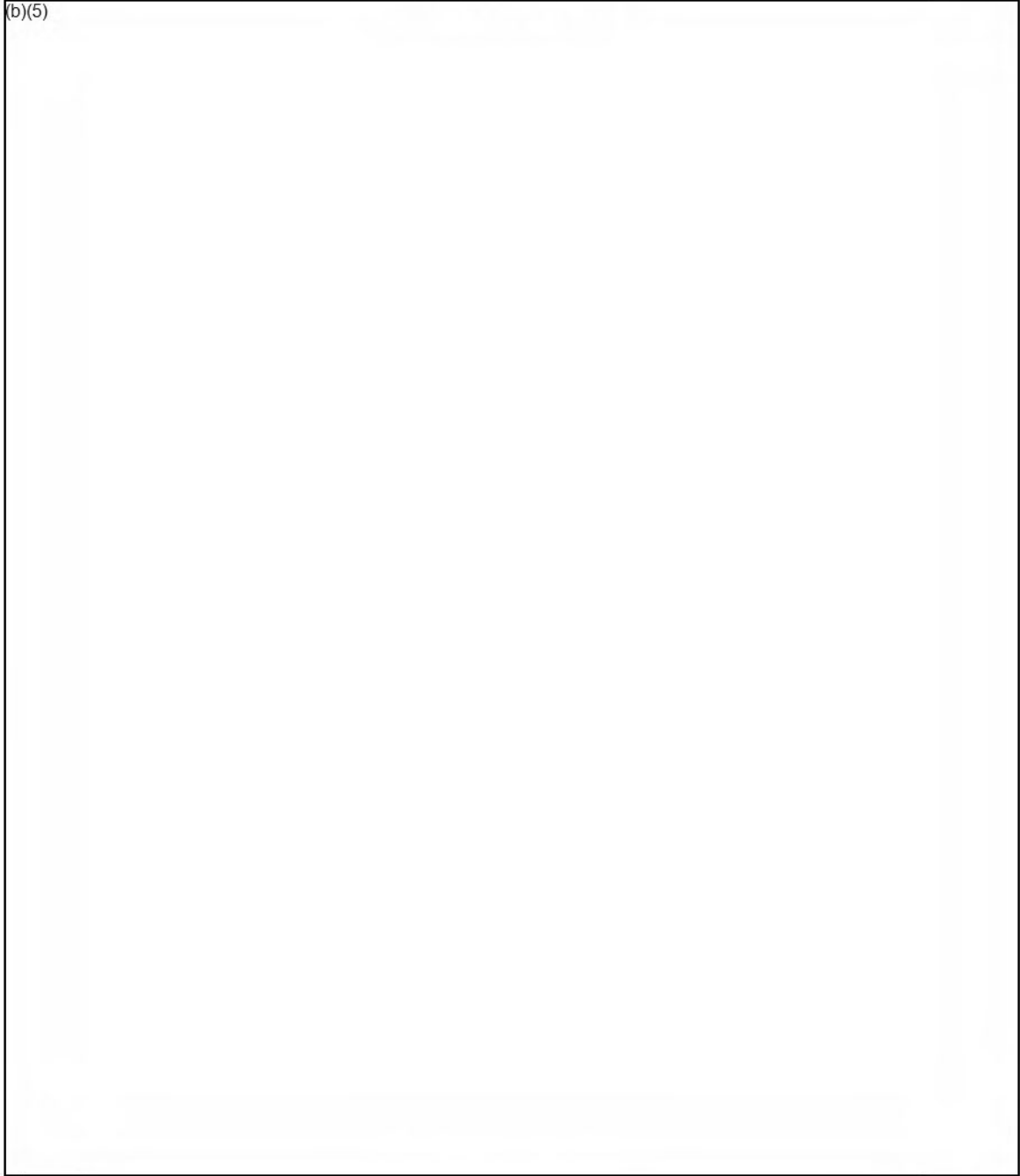
Sean D. Reyes
Attorney General
State of Utah



Patrick Morrissey
Attorney General
State of West Virginia

CC: Hon. Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States
Ms. Nina Jankowicz, Executive Director, Disinformation Governance Board
Hon. Charles E. Schumer, Majority Leader, United States Senate
Hon. Mitch McConnell, Republican Leader, United States Senate
Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
Hon. Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader, United States House of
Representatives

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Page 146

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 147

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 148

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 149

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 150

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 151

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 152

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 153

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 154

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Tough Questions for S1 House Judiciary Committee Hearing

HOT TOPICS

(b)(5)



Page 156

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 157

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 158

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 159

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 160

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 161

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 162

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 163

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 164

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

From:	CARNES, ALEXANDRA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
To:	ESPINOSA, MARSHA (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) CANEGALLO, KRISTIE (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) SEIDMAN, RICKI (b)(6) (b)(6) LUGO, ALICE (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
CC:	O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject:	RE: The Hill: GOP seeks testimony from DHS disinformation board head
Date:	2022/05/05 13:25:43
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Here's the letter.

From: ESPINOSA, MARSHA (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 12:38 PM
To: CANEGALLO, KRISTIE (b)(6) SEIDMAN, RICKI
(b)(6) LUGO, ALICE (b)(6) CARNES, ALEXANDRA
(b)(6)
Cc: O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY (b)(6)
Subject: The Hill: GOP seeks testimony from DHS disinformation board head

The Hill: [GOP seeks testimony from DHS disinformation board head \(Emily Brooks\)](#)

(b)(5)

Page 166

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

###

Sender:	CARNES, ALEXANDRA (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	ESPINOSA, MARSHA (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	CANEGALLO, KRISTIE (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Recipient:	SEIDMAN, RICKI (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	LUGO, ALICE (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	O'CONNOR, KIMBERLY (b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)
Sent Date:	2022/05/05 13:25:25
Delivered Date:	2022/05/05 13:25:43

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-3951
judiciary.house.gov

May 5, 2022

Ms. Nina Jankowicz
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Ms. Jankowicz:

On April 27, 2022, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas testified that the Biden Administration had established a so-called “Disinformation Governance Board” to combat alleged disinformation and misinformation.¹ According to news reports, which you acknowledged on Twitter, you will lead the board as its executive director.² This Board is un-American, anti-democratic, and a dangerous escalation of the Biden Administration’s embrace of government-endorsed censorship. In addition, judging from your past statements, Americans can not and should not trust you with your newfound authority to act as the Biden Administration’s arbiter of the truth.

The Biden Administration has shown that it has, at best, a tenuous relationship with the truth. For example, President Biden has repeatedly and falsely asserted that facts about Hunter Biden’s business dealings with corrupt Ukrainian and Communist Party-linked Chinese nationals are Russian disinformation.³ President Biden made these assertions despite an independent Senate investigation substantiating many of the allegations.⁴ The *New York Post* has similarly reported on these dealings for years, and the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* have more recently confirmed much of the original reporting.⁵

¹ See, e.g., Bradford Betz, *Mayorkas testifies DHS is creating ‘Disinformation Governance Board’*, FOX NEWS (Apr. 27, 2022).

² Eugene Daniels et al., *POLITICO Playbook: Fauci pulls out of WHCD. Is Biden next?*, POLITICO (Apr. 27, 2022); Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), TWITTER (Apr. 27, 2022, 7:17 AM), <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1519274470049042432>.

³ See Tyler Olson, *President Biden said Hunter laptop was Russian disinformation, but some now says it ‘could’ be his*, FOX NEWS (Apr. 2, 2021).

⁴ STAFF OF THE S. COMM. ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND THE S. COMM. ON FINANCE, 116TH. CONG., HUNTER BIDEN, BURISMA, AND CORRUPTION: THE IMPACT OF U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY AND RELATED CONCERNS (Sept. 2020); STAFF OF THE S. COMM. ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND THE S. COMM. ON FINANCE, 116TH. CONG., MAJORITY STAFF SUPPLEMENTAL (Nov. 2020).

⁵ See, e.g., Emma-Jo Morris & Gabrielle Fonroque, *Smoking-gun emails reveals how Hunter Biden introduced Ukrainian businessman to VP dad*, N.Y. POST (Oct. 14, 2020); Katie Brenner et al., *Hunter Biden paid tax bill, but broad federal investigation continues*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 16, 2022); Matt Viser et al., *Inside Hunter Biden’s multimillion-dollar deals with a Chinese energy company*, WASH. POST (Mar. 30, 2022).

You have similarly propagated this and other misinformation.⁶ On October 14, 2020, you were quoted in an *Associated Press* article about Hunter Biden's laptop as saying it "should [be] view[ed] as a Trump campaign product."⁷ On October 22, 2020, you argued that the laptop story was "a [fairy] tale about a laptop repair shop."⁸ On March 16, 2021, you asserted that an intelligence community assessment about Russian and other foreign activities related to the 2020 election was a "clear nod to the alleged Hunter laptop."⁹ On April 2, 2021, despite your statements to the contrary, Hunter Biden conceded that the laptop may have been his, and the *New York Times* subsequently reported that he had abandoned the laptop at the Delaware repair shop.¹⁰

You have also pushed left-wing disinformation about the so-called "Steele Dossier," the false and tawdry set of allegations about President Trump generated and pushed by Democrat operatives during the 2016 election cycle. On April 22, 2020, you promoted the false narrative that the Steele Dossier "began as a Republican opposition research project."¹¹ In fact, it was "Hillary Clinton's campaign and the Democratic National Committee" that paid "Fusion GPS [beginning] in April [2016] for research that eventually became the basis for the dossier."¹² You later promoted an interview with Steele that you described as providing "some great historical context about the evolution of disinfo."¹³ You also promoted other theories, for instance about disclosures made by then-Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe, that turned out to be false.¹⁴

The establishment of the Biden Administration's Board and your appointment to lead it gives rise to considerable concerns about its effect on Americans' fundamental civil liberties. The ability of Americans to engage in robust debate and conversation is the foundation of American politics, and there is no place for a *de facto* ministry of truth in our government. The very idea of a ministry of truth should be revolting to all Americans who hold our Bill of Rights in high regard.

To assist the Committee in investigating this matter, please provide the following documents:

⁶ See, e.g., Jerry Dunleavy, *Biden 'disinformation' chief a Trump Dossier fan and Hunter Biden laptop doubter*, WASH. EXAMINER (Apr. 28, 2022).

⁷ Eric Tucker & Stephen Braun, *AP Explains: Trump seizes on dubious Biden-Ukraine story*, ASSOC. PRESS (Oct. 14, 2020).

⁸ Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), TWITTER (Oct. 22, 2020, 8:39 AM), <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1319257015651368960>.

⁹ Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), TWITTER (Mar. 16, 2021, 2:22 PM), <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1371889543582990336>.

¹⁰ Olsen, *supra* note 4; Brenner et al., *supra* note 6.

¹¹ See Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), TWITTER (Apr. 22, 2022, 7:55 AM), <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1252928977586524161>.

¹² Kenneth P. Vogel & Maggie Haberman, *Conservative Website First Funded Anti-Trump Research by Firm That Later Produced Dossier*, N.Y. TIMES (Oct. 27, 2017).

¹³ Nina Jankowicz (@wiczipedia), TWITTER (Aug. 7, 2020, 7:06 AM), <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1291692143262814209>.

¹⁴ See Dunleavy, *supra* note 7.

Ms. Nina Jankowicz

May 5, 2022

Page 3

1. All documents and communications referring or relating to the creation of the Board and your appointment as executive director;
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to the creation of the Board, including its mission and authorities, between or among the Department of Homeland Security and the Executive Office of the President; and
3. All documents and communications referring or relating to any coordination or other interaction between the Board and Twitter, Meta Platforms, or any other social media company.


Please provide this information as soon as possible, but not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2022. In addition, given the serious threat to free speech posed by the Administration's actions, we ask that you please make yourself available for a briefing with the Committee immediately so that we may address questions including but not limited to the following:


1. Do you stand by your earlier characterizations of Hunter Biden's laptop as "a Trump campaign product" and Russian misinformation?
2. In light of your previous comments in which you falsely characterized information with which you disagreed as "disinfo," how do you define misinformation and disinformation?
3. What information and data do you intend to collect and from what sources?
4. What safeguards, if any, will you implement to ensure you respect the First Amendment rights of all Americans, not just those with whom you agree?
5. What specific actions will you take to counter what it views to be misinformation or disinformation, and what approval will be necessary before you take that action?


Please schedule this briefing as soon as possible. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


Jim Jordan
Ranking Member


Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress


Darrell Issa
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Intellectual Property
and the Internet


Ken Buck
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial
and Administrative Law


Ms. Nina Jankowicz

May 5, 2022

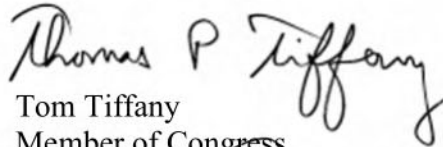
Page 4




Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



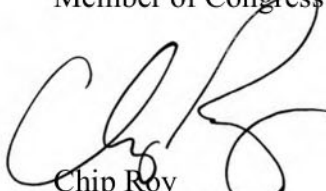
Tom McClintock
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Immigration and
Citizenship



Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



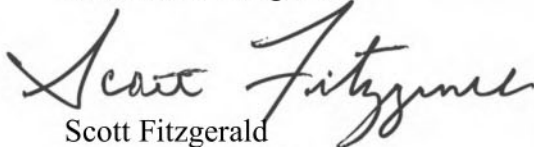
Thomas Massie
Member of Congress



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress

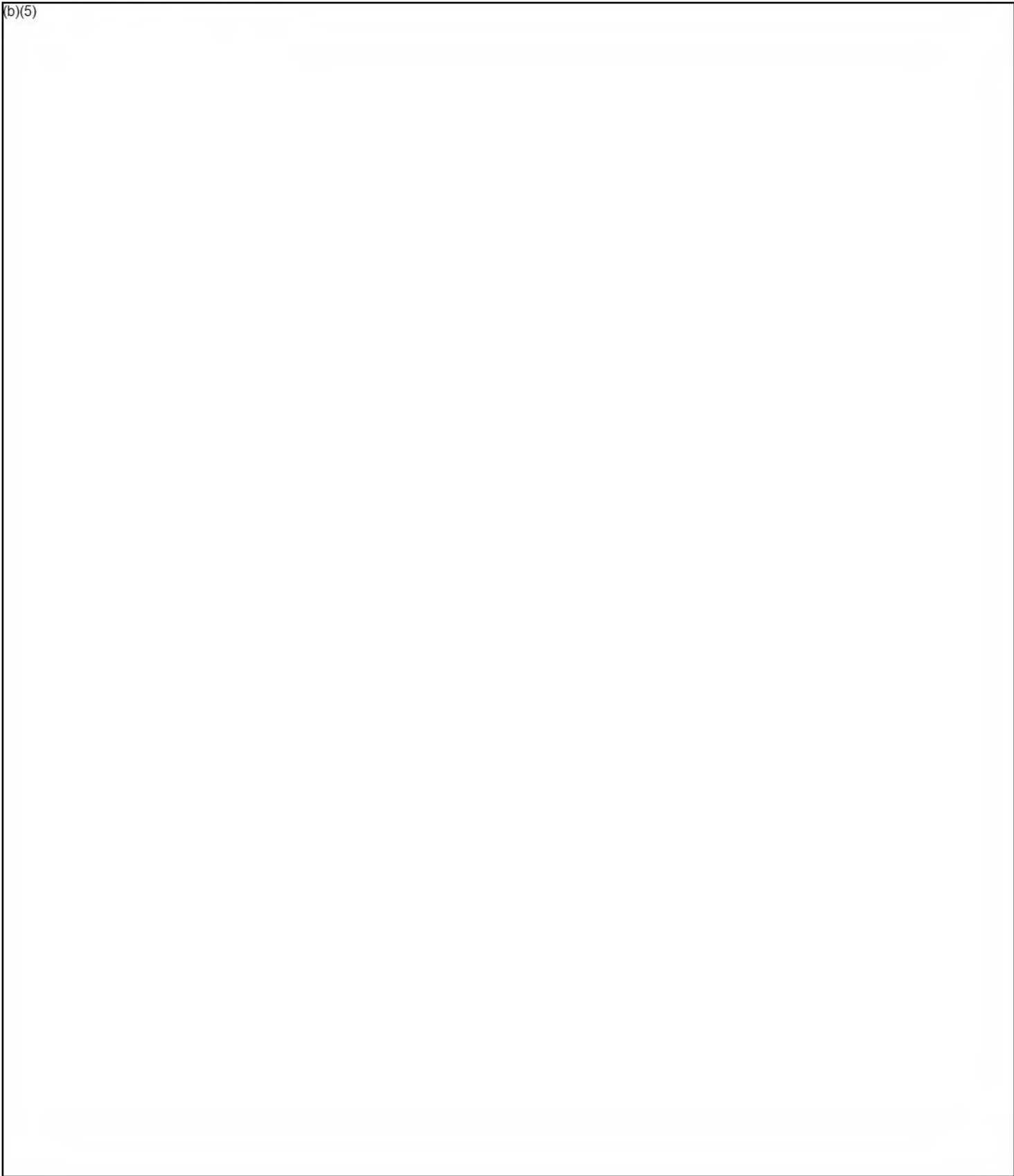


Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Chairman

DRAFT FACT SHEET:

(b)(5)



Page 173

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

SUNDAY MORNING SHOW INTERVIEWS
May 1, 2022

Overview:

- You will participate in three Sunday show interviews (7-8 minutes each):
 - 8:00am CNN – In studio Pretape with Dana Bash
 - 8:30am Fox News – In Studio Pretape with Bret Baier
 - 9:00am NBC – In studio LIVE with Chuck Todd
- The interviews will focus on the Administration’s preparations ahead of the termination of Title 42 and your recent Congressional hearings.

Topline Messages:

(b)(5)



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(b)(5)

Attachments:

- A. Tough Q&A
- B. Biographies

Staff Responsible for Briefing Memo: Marsha Espinosa, (b)(6)

ATTACHMENT A: TOUGH Q&A

(b)(5)



ATTACHMENT B: BIOGRAPHIES



Dana Bash

Dana Bash is CNN's chief political correspondent and co-anchor of State of the Union with Jake Tapper and Dana Bash, the network's Sunday morning newsmaker show. Bash is based in Washington, D.C., where she covers both campaigns and Congress and regularly serves as a moderator for CNN's political town hall specials.

She also moderated CNN's first debate of the 2020 election cycle in Detroit, as well as the last Democratic Presidential Debate of the cycle held in Washington, D.C. Bash also anchored special coverage of Election Night in America surrounding the 2020 election, which lasted several days until CNN was the first to project Joe Biden as the winner. Bash is the winner of the National Press Foundation's 2019 Sol Taishoff Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism.

Bash played a key role in CNN's 2016 presidential primary debates, serving as a questioner in six of the network's seven primetime primary debates on both sides of the aisle. Bash also serves as a co-anchor on set in the CNN Election Center for all election night specials. As part of her coverage of the 2016 presidential campaigns, Bash conducted sit-down interviews with majority of the candidates including Donald Trump, Senators Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and Bernie Sanders, and Governors Jeb Bush and John Kasich.

Bash also continues to be instrumental to the network's Capitol Hill coverage. In 2015, she broke news on live television that House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy would not be running for Speaker of the House and also conducted Speaker John Boehner's final interview on his last day in office. Bash also served as the lead correspondent covering former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's 11-hour testimony before the House Select Committee on Benghazi.

Bash graduated cum laude with her bachelor's degree in political communications from The George Washington University.



Bret Baier

Bret Baier currently serves as FOX News Channel's (FNC) anchor and executive editor of Special Report with Bret Baier (weeknights at 6-7PM/ET) and chief political anchor of the network. He joined FNC in 1998 as the first reporter in the Atlanta bureau and is now based in Washington, DC.

Most recently, Baier has provided live breaking news coverage surrounding Russia's invasion of Ukraine, interviewing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba. Throughout his tenure at FNC, Baier has played a critical role in every major political event since joining the network.

Prior to his anchor role, Baier was named chief White House correspondent in 2006 and covered the second term of the George W. Bush administration. Before that, he served as national security correspondent covering military and national security affairs, as well as defense, military policy and the intelligence community from the Pentagon.

As FNC's Southeastern correspondent from 1998 to 2001, he covered a range of stories, including the 2001 Timothy McVeigh execution and the 1999 Elian Gonzalez story. He has also provided a series of reports from Cuba and covered more than a dozen hurricanes.

Prior to joining FNC, Baier worked for WRAL-TV (CBS 5) in Raleigh, NC, WREX-TV (NBC 13) in Rockford, IL and WJWJ-TV (PBS 2) in Beaufort, SC. A graduate of DePauw University, he has a B.A. in political science and English. He is also the author of four New York Times Best-Sellers.



Chuck Todd

Chuck Todd, NBC News political director and moderator of Meet the Press, spearheads the network's premier political coverage, offering insider analysis and translation of Beltway politics across all platforms – zeroing in on what really matters in Washington and why.

Todd is also a primary anchor for the network's primetime election coverage and is known for holding politicians and newsmakers accountable.

Prior to taking the helm of Meet the Press in September 2014, Todd served as NBC News chief White House correspondent (2008 - 2014), traveling around the world with President Obama and reporting on the main pillars of his presidency, including the passage of the Affordable Care Act. From 2010 to 2014, Chuck also hosted MSNBC's The Daily Rundown, featuring daily interviews with top congressional members.

In 2007, Tim Russert, then-Washington bureau chief and Meet the Press moderator, recruited Todd to join NBC News as the network's political director. Prior to joining NBC News, Todd worked at the National Journal's "The Hotline" for 15 years, serving for six of those years as the editor-in-chief.

Todd is a native of Miami and currently resides in Arlington, Va. with his wife, Kristian, and two children.

PREP FOR SUNDAY SHOW INTERVIEWS
April 29, 2022

Overview:

- You will participate in three Sunday show interviews (7-8 minutes each):
 - 8:00am CNN – In studio Pretape with Dana Bash
 - 8:30am Fox News – In Studio Pretape with Bret Baier
 - 9:00am NBC – In studio LIVE with Chuck Todd
- The interviews will focus on the Administration’s preparations ahead of the termination of Title 42 and your recent Congressional hearings.

Topline Messages:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Attachments:

- A. Tough Q&A
- B. Biographies

Staff Responsible for Briefing Memo: Marsha Espinosa, (b)(6)

ATTACHMENT A: TOUGH Q&A

(b)(5)

ATTACHMENT B: BIOGRAPHIES



Dana Bash

Dana Bash is CNN's chief political correspondent and co-anchor of State of the Union with Jake Tapper and Dana Bash, the network's Sunday morning newsmaker show. Bash is based in Washington, D.C., where she covers both campaigns and Congress and regularly serves as a moderator for CNN's political town hall specials.

She also moderated CNN's first debate of the 2020 election cycle in Detroit, as well as the last Democratic Presidential Debate of the cycle held in Washington, D.C. Bash also anchored special coverage of Election Night in America surrounding the 2020 election, which lasted several days until CNN was the first to project Joe Biden as the winner. Bash is the winner of the National Press Foundation's 2019 Sol Taishoff Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism.

Bash played a key role in CNN's 2016 presidential primary debates, serving as a questioner in six of the network's seven primetime primary debates on both sides of the aisle. Bash also serves as a co-anchor on set in the CNN Election Center for all election night specials. As part of her coverage of the 2016 presidential campaigns, Bash conducted sit-down interviews with majority of the candidates including Donald Trump, Senators Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and Bernie Sanders, and Governors Jeb Bush and John Kasich.

Bash also continues to be instrumental to the network's Capitol Hill coverage. In 2015, she broke news on live television that House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy would not be running for Speaker of the House and also conducted Speaker John Boehner's final interview on his last day in office. Bash also served as the lead correspondent covering former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's 11-hour testimony before the House Select Committee on Benghazi.

Bash graduated cum laude with her bachelor's degree in political communications from The George Washington University.



Bret Baier

Bret Baier currently serves as FOX News Channel's (FNC) anchor and executive editor of Special Report with Bret Baier (weeknights at 6-7PM/ET) and chief political anchor of the network. He joined FNC in 1998 as the first reporter in the Atlanta bureau and is now based in Washington, DC.

Most recently, Baier has provided live breaking news coverage surrounding Russia's invasion of Ukraine, interviewing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba. Throughout his tenure at FNC, Baier has played a critical role in every major political event since joining the network.

Prior to his anchor role, Baier was named chief White House correspondent in 2006 and covered the second term of the George W. Bush administration. Before that, he served as national security correspondent covering military and national security affairs, as well as defense, military policy and the intelligence community from the Pentagon.

As FNC's Southeastern correspondent from 1998 to 2001, he covered a range of stories, including the 2001 Timothy McVeigh execution and the 1999 Elian Gonzalez story. He has also provided a series of reports from Cuba and covered more than a dozen hurricanes.

Prior to joining FNC, Baier worked for WRAL-TV (CBS 5) in Raleigh, NC, WREX-TV (NBC 13) in Rockford, IL and WJWJ-TV (PBS 2) in Beaufort, SC. A graduate of DePauw University, he has a B.A. in political science and English. He is also the author of four New York Times Best-Sellers.



Chuck Todd

Chuck Todd, NBC News political director and moderator of Meet the Press, spearheads the network's premier political coverage, offering insider analysis and translation of Beltway politics across all platforms – zeroing in on what really matters in Washington and why.

Todd is also a primary anchor for the network's primetime election coverage and is known for holding politicians and newsmakers accountable.

Prior to taking the helm of Meet the Press in September 2014, Todd served as NBC News chief White House correspondent (2008 - 2014), traveling around the world with President Obama and reporting on the main pillars of his presidency, including the passage of the Affordable Care Act. From 2010 to 2014, Chuck also hosted MSNBC's The Daily Rundown, featuring daily interviews with top congressional members.

In 2007, Tim Russert, then-Washington bureau chief and Meet the Press moderator, recruited Todd to join NBC News as the network's political director. Prior to joining NBC News, Todd worked at the National Journal's "The Hotline" for 15 years, serving for six of those years as the editor-in-chief.

Todd is a native of Miami and currently resides in Arlington, Va. with his wife, Kristian, and two children.

DHS Ukraine Task Force Concept Proposal

February 6th, 2022



DHS-001-02015-000572

Page 187

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

DHS-001-02015-000573

Page 188

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

DHS-001-02015-000574

Page 189

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

DHS-001-02015-000575

Page 190

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

DHS-001-02015-000576

Page 191

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

DHS-001-02015-000577

Page 192

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

DHS-001-02015-000578

Page 193

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

DHS-001-02015-000579

Page 194

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

DHS-001-02015-000580

Page 195

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

DHS-001-02015-000581

Page 196

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

DHS-001-02015-000582

Page 197

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

DHS-001-02015-000583

Page 198

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

DHS-001-02015-000584

Page 199

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

DHS-001-02015-000585

Page 200

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

DHS-001-02015-000586

Page 201

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

DHS-001-02015-000587

**MEETING WITH WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM (WEF)
CHAIRMAN KLAUS SCHWAB
April 14, 2022**

Overview:

- You will meet virtually with Chairman Schwab at his request. Chairman Schwab initially requested an in-person meeting, but you were in California at the time.

(b)(5)

Key Objectives:

(b)(5)

Background:

(b)(5)

Participants:

Secretary Mayorkas
U/S Rob Silvers
DAS Jamie Lawrence

External

Klaus Schwab, Chairman, WEF
Jeremy Jurgens, Head of Cybersecurity
Paul Smyke, North America Government Team
Elizabeth Caputo, Government Affairs Team

Attachments:

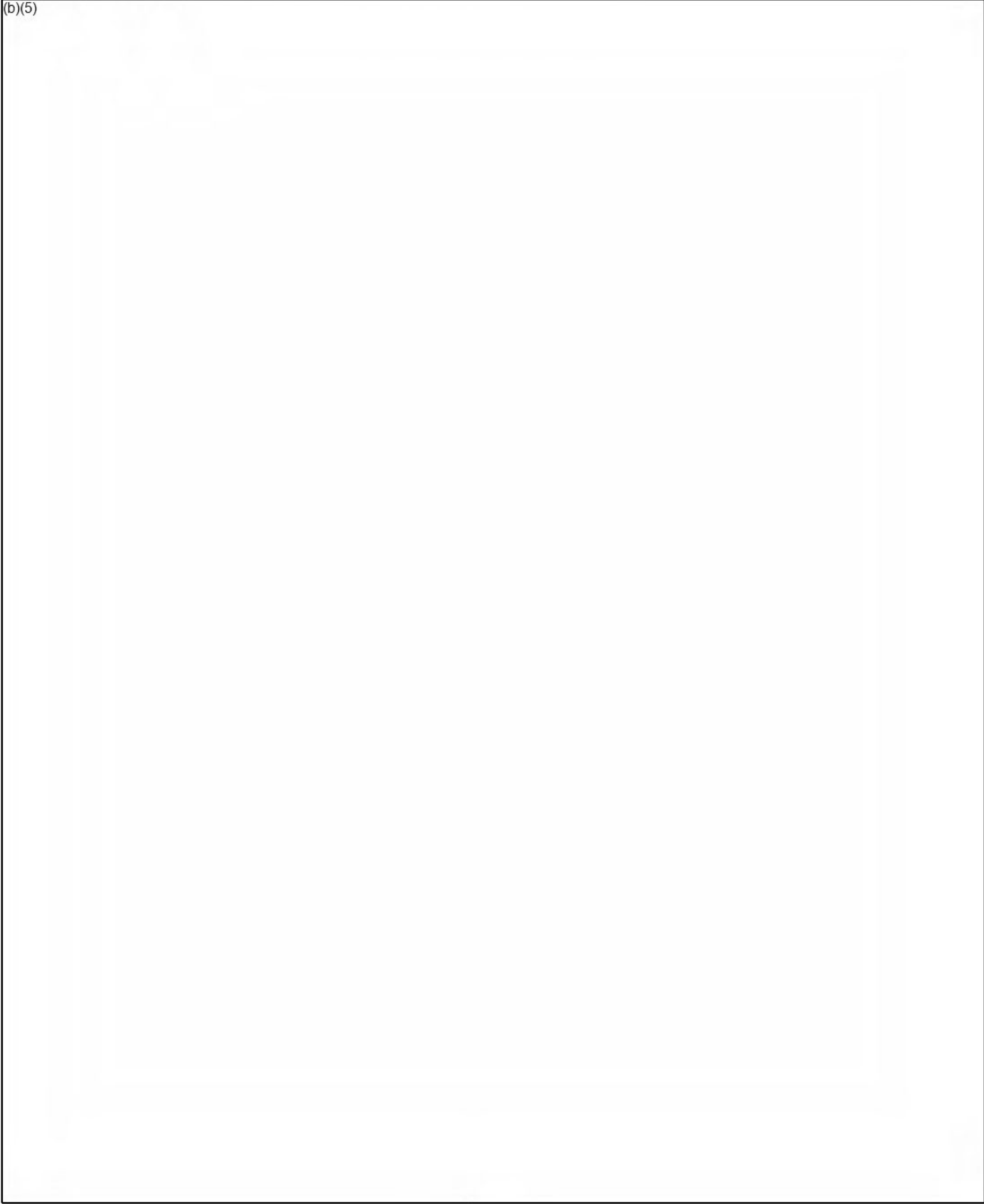
- A. Klaus Biography
- B. Davos Invitation
- C. 2022 Davos Meeting Overview

Staff Responsible for Briefing Memo: Jamie Lawrence, DAS, Private Sector Office,

(b)(6)

Discussion Points:

(b)(5)



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(b)(5)



(b)(5)

