

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 23, 2025

The Honorable Kashyap Pramod Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington D.C. 20535

Dear Director Patel:

We write with grave concern regarding new reports that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) abruptly terminated an active public corruption investigation into White House border czar Tom Homan. These reports allege that Mr. Homan received a significant amount of money from undercover FBI agents in “exchange for facilitating future contracts related to border enforcement,” and that top Department of Justice (DOJ) and FBI officials from the Trump Administration were briefed on the allegations and then shut down the investigation.¹ Such allegations of high-level corruption and cover-up demand your close cooperation with congressional oversight and transparency to restore public trust, including the public release of key evidence.

As members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, we are initiating a robust oversight inquiry to review Mr. Homan’s actions prior to and since joining this administration, as well as the FBI’s role in ultimately shutting down the investigation into Mr. Homan. To ensure the Committee can undertake its legislative and oversight functions, please instruct all relevant components of the Bureau to preserve any and all records related to the investigation into Mr. Homan and the decision to close the investigation.

Moreover, given the urgent need to repair public trust, we request that the full investigative file, including any recordings of Mr. Homan receiving cash from undercover FBI agents, be delivered immediately to Congress and made available to the public. You have touted your commitment to transparency and have released records from other closed investigations. This case should be no different.

These reports allege that the FBI recorded Mr. Homan accepting \$50,000 in cash in a paper bag after he indicated he would help the undercover FBI agents win government contracts in a

¹ Carol Leonnig and Ken Dilanian, *Tom Homan was investigated for accepting \$50,000 from undercover FBI agents. Trump’s DOJ shut it down*, MSNBC (Sept. 20, 2025) www.msnbc.com/msnbc/news/tom-homan-cash-contracts-trump-doj-investigation-rcna232568; Devlin Barrett, et al., *Trump Justice Dept. Closed Investigation Into Tom Homan for Accepting Bag of Cash*, NY TIMES (Sept. 20, 2025) www.nytimes.com/2025/09/20/us/politics/tom-homan-fbi-trump.html.

second Trump administration.² Top law enforcement officials reportedly debated charging Mr. Homan prior to the 2024 presidential election, but decided to continue their investigation once he became a public official again. Furthermore, top administration officials, including you and then-Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove, were reportedly briefed on the evidence before moving to close the investigation. It is difficult to believe that an investigation with evidence of Mr. Homan accepting \$50,000 cash in a bag – documented by audio and/or video recording – could have been found to lack “credible evidence of any criminal wrongdoing,” as you and Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche recently stated.³ Closing this investigation is an unprecedented departure from the FBI’s longstanding role in combatting public corruption.

These allegations raise additional concerns that this administration’s immigration enforcement and deportation policies and actions, including its award of federal funds for detention centers or security related technology, have been and may continue to be influenced by Mr. Homan’s corrupt financial interests.

Mr. Homan’s ties to private companies that benefit from Department of Homeland Security (DHS) contracts are well known and raised ethics concerns even prior to these new reports.⁴ For instance, following his tenure as Acting Director for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) during the first Trump Administration, Mr. Homan’s financial disclosures show that he received substantial consulting fees from The GEO Group, one of the two main private detention center contractors with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).⁵ While campaigning for now-President Trump’s second administration, Mr. Homan publicly stated that he planned to “run the biggest deportation operation this country’s ever seen,” and, since being appointed as the White House border czar, Mr. Homan has advocated for unprecedented and extraordinarily expensive immigration enforcement actions, including establishing more than 107,000 detention beds that will require significant new detention center contracts.⁶

² *Id.*; Perry Stein and Aaron C. Davis, *Trump officials shut down bribery probe of border czar Tom Homan*, WASHINGTON POST (Sept. 21, 2025) www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/09/21/trump-administration-bribery-probe-homan/; Sarah N. Lynch, *Trump aide Homan accepted \$50,000 in bribery sting operation, sources say*, REUTERS (Sept. 21, 2025) www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-aide-homan-accepted-50000-bribery-sting-operation-sources-say-2025-09-21.

³ Carol Leonnig and Ken Dilanian, *Tom Homan was investigated for accepting \$50,000 from undercover FBI agents. Trump’s DOJ shut it down*, MSNBC (Sept. 20, 2025) www.msnbc.com/msnbc/news/tom-homan-cash-contracts-trump-doj-investigation-rcna232568.

⁴ Naomi Lachane, *Incoming Trump border czar’s firm brags about helping companies get contracts*, ROLLING STONE (Dec. 30, 2024), www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-features/trump-border-tom-homan-firm-federal-contracts-1235219657.

⁵ Douglas MacMillan and Aaron Schaffer, *Trump’s border czar earned consulting fees from immigrant detention firm*, WASHINGTON POST (May 27, 2025), www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/05/27/border-czar-ethics-consulting-fees/.

⁶ *Id.*; Douglas MacMillan *et al.*, *ICE documents reveal plan to double immigrant detention space this year*, WASHINGTON POST (Aug. 15, 2025), www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/08/15/ice-documents-reveal-plan-double-immigrant-detention-space-this-year.

In addition to the full investigative file, we request written responses to the following questions by October 6, 2025:

1. When were you made aware that there was an ongoing investigation by the FBI into Mr. Homan?
2. You claim that the FBI and Department of Justice conducted a full review of the investigation before closing it.
 - a. What did the full review of this ongoing investigation entail? Please detail the documents, evidence, and sources that were consulted during your review process.
 - b. Were you personally involved in the review or decision to close this investigation? Which other FBI political appointees were involved in the review and decision?
 - c. Were any career FBI agents involved in this review? If so, did they agree with the decision to close the investigation?
3. Did you receive direction, instruction, suggestions, or other communication from President Trump or other White House officials to terminate the ongoing investigation into Mr. Homan? If so, please detail all such communications.
4. Did you ever discuss the investigation of Mr. Homan with President Trump or other White House officials prior to closing the investigation? If so, please detail all such communications.
5. When was the decision to terminate the ongoing FBI investigation into Mr. Homan made?
 - a. How was this decision disseminated to FBI investigators and Department of Justice prosecutors?
 - b. Was Mr. Homan informed of this decision? If so, please state the date that Mr. Homan was informed, and please list all the officials, disaggregated by agency, who participated in that communication.
6. Did the FBI conduct a background investigation on Mr. Homan before he took office as border czar? If so, which offices and officials received notification of the results of the background investigation?
7. Has Mr. Homan provided additional financial records outside of his public financial disclosures for a background investigation? Did these financial records include the \$50,000 cash that Mr. Homan received from an undercover FBI agent?

8. Does Mr. Homan currently hold an active security clearance or suitability determination? If so, was information about the ongoing criminal investigation into Mr. Homan provided to the law enforcement agents who conducted his background investigation? Alternatively, was Mr. Homan provided with a security clearance without the typical background investigation?

Thank you for your prompt attention to these extraordinary allegations. We are prepared to work with DOJ and the FBI to protect sensitive information contained in the investigative file, including the identities of any undercover agents or confidential human sources, in order to preserve the integrity of the evidence and any ongoing investigations.

Sincerely,



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator