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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

October 15, 2025

The Honorable Scott Turner
Secretary
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Turner:

I write today to request information regarding staffing levels at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the ability of HUD to serve the public and comply with its statutory mandates.

On Friday, October 10, 2025, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Russell Vought announced sweeping Reduction in Force (RIF) plans across the federal government.¹ Director Vought “provided no further details” regarding the RIFs, though an OMB spokesperson stated that the RIFs—which are layoffs, “not furloughs”—were “substantial.”² In a court filing, the Administration acknowledged that it had sent RIF notices to thousands of employees at the Departments of the Treasury, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Commerce, and Education, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency.³ It also “hinted at the possibility of additional dismissals.”⁴

The Trump Administration has sought to construe the RIFs as a “necessary” part of the government shutdown that began on October 1, 2025.⁵ This is, of course, false: in recent years, shutdowns under both Republican and Democratic administrations have ended through bipartisan negotiation—not the arbitrary dismantling of federal agencies and programs that serve millions of Americans.⁶ Furthermore, the shutdown “provides no new legal authority for an agency to

¹ Politico, “Vought sounds layoff siren: ‘The RIFs have begun,’” Irie Sentner and Jennifer Scholtes, October 10, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/10/10/vought-sounds-layoff-siren-the-rifs-have-begun-00602262>.

² *Id.*

³ New York Times, “Trump Says Federal Layoffs Have Begun During Government Shutdown,” Tony Romm, October 10, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/10/us/politics/federal-layoffs-government-shutdown.html>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ See pg. 1 of a draft Office of Management and Budget shared with Politico on September 24, 2025, linked in Politico, “White House to agencies: Prepare mass firing plans for a potential shutdown,” Sophia Cai, September 24, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/09/24/white-house-firings-shutdown-00579909>.

⁶ Sam Berger, “Administration Plans for Mass Firings in a Shutdown Not Justified by Law or Prudent Management,” Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, September 29, 2025, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-budget/administration-plans-for-mass-firings-in-a-shutdown-not-justified-by-law-or>.

engage in widespread firings.”⁷ Instead, the Administration’s motivations appear purely political. Leading up to the shutdown, the President’s threats of mass layoffs were widely understood as an effort to “up[] the ante” of a shutdown for Democrats.⁸ And on October 9, 2025, President Trump told his cabinet that he was “only cutting Democrat programs,” and “some very popular Democrat programs that aren’t popular with Republicans, frankly.”⁹ The President, in other words, is intentionally using the shutdown to deprive the American public, Democrat and Republican, of services.

These RIFs, if fully implemented, will have dire implications for HUD’s ability to comply with its statutory mandates once the government reopens. The Trump Administration already diminished HUD’s capacity to function through mass firings, RIFs, and deferred resignation programs in early 2025. These new RIFs will only further incapacitate the agency and make it difficult—if not impossible—for it to serve the American public. According to recent reports, for example, the October 10th RIFs “laid off [HUD’s] entire team of building inspectors.”¹⁰ The cuts were also reportedly “concentrated in the agency’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, the division that investigates claims of discrimination and abuse.”¹¹

The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, of which I am Ranking Member, has jurisdiction over the activities of HUD. To help me better understand the extent to which the President’s unnecessary and illegal RIFs will impact the agency’s ability to serve the American public if fully implemented. It will also inform Congress’s exercise of its legislative responsibilities related to the agency. Please provide the following information no later than October 22, 2025:

1. An organizational chart describing all relevant divisions, subdivisions, program offices, including regional and field offices, of HUD in effect as of January 20, 2025.
 - a. The total number of employees employed at HUD as of January 20, 2025.
 - b. The total number of employees employed at each applicable division, subdivision, office, and program of HUD as of January 20, 2025.
2. The same organizational chart describing all relevant divisions, subdivisions, offices, including regional and field offices, and programs of HUD in effect as of September 30, 2025, after close of business.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Politico, “White House to agencies: Prepare mass firing plans for a potential shutdown,” Sophia Cai, September 24, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/09/24/white-house-firings-shutdown-00579909>.

⁹ Politico, “Trump promises cuts to programs favored by Democrats,” Ben Johansen, October 9, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/10/09/trump-promises-cuts-democrats-programs-00599884>.

¹⁰ Bloomberg, “Affordable Housing Left Vulnerable After Trump Fires Building Inspectors,” Kriston Capps, October 14, 2025, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-10-14/after-bronx-public-housing-collapse-hud-laid-off-its-building-inspectors>.

¹¹ Bloomberg, “HUD Issues Layoff Notices, Targeting Fair Housing Staff with Deep Cuts,” Kriston Capps and Sarah Holder, October 11, 2025, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-10-11/hud-issues-layoff-notices-targeting-fair-housing-staff-with-deep-cuts>.

- a. The total number of employees employed at HUD on September 30, 2025, after close of business.
 - b. The total number of employees employed at each applicable division, subdivision, office, including regional and field offices, and program of HUD on September 30, 2025, after close of business.
3. Copies of all RIF notices, plans, and guidance sent to HUD employees on or after October 10, 2025.
 - a. The total number of employees that would be employed at HUD, should such RIF plans go into effect.
 - b. The total number of employees employed at each applicable division, subdivision, office, including regional and field offices, and program of HUD, should such RIF plans go into effect.
 - c. A detailed description of HUD's capacity to comply with its statutory mandates, should all RIFs go into effect.
 - i. Provide this information for each division, subdivision, office, including regional and field offices, and program, as well as each statutorily required function of the agency.
4. Copies of all Agency RIF and Reorganization Plans (ARRPs) submitted by HUD to OMB and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), pursuant to the February 11, 2025, Executive Order entitled, "Implementing The President's 'Department of Government Efficiency' Workforce Optimization Initiative" and the February 26, 2025, OMB memorandum implementing such order.¹² Specifically, provide:
 - a. The "Phase 1 ARRPs," and any accompanying materials, due to OPM and OMB on March 13, 2025.
 - b. The "Phase 2 ARRPs," and any accompanying materials, due to OPM and OMB on April 14, 2025.
 - c. The "monthly progress reports," and any accompanying materials, due to OPM and OMB on May 14, 2025, June 16, 2025, and July 16, 2025.
 - d. Analysis of how the ARRPs submitted to OMB and OPM interact with any RIF notices described in (3).

¹² Memorandum from Russell T. Vought, Director, Office of Management and Budget, and Charles Ezell, Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, to Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, regarding Guidance on Agency RIF and Reorganization Plans Requested by *Implementing The President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative*, February 26, 2025, <https://www.opm.gov/chcoc/latest-memos/guidance-on-agency-rif-and-reorganization-plans-requested-by-implementing-the-president-s-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative.pdf>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Elizabeth Warren", positioned above a horizontal line.

Elizabeth Warren
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs