

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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February 6, 2025

Mr. Kashyap Patel
Nominee to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
919 Florida Avenue, NW, Suite 101
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Patel:

I write to seek your written assurance that, if confirmed, you will halt the outrageous mass political purge of career officials at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), now under way, and reinstate everyone there who has been terminated without individualized due process. This is not only compelled by law but consistent with your repeated sworn pledge at your confirmation hearings that the FBI will not engage in “retributive actions” against the men and women of the Bureau.¹ The purges of FBI personnel being carried out by DOJ and FBI leadership are plainly politically motivated and violate clear statutory and constitutional rights. They are also seriously harming the FBI’s critical mission of protecting the American people.

Last week, Trump Administration officials, including Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove, a former defense attorney for President Trump, effectively ordered the termination of multiple senior career officials at the FBI.² The list of officials who were removed from their posts includes the Executive Assistant Directors in charge of each of the FBI’s six branches (Intelligence; National Security; Criminal, Cyber, Response, and Services; Science and Technology; Information and Technology; and Human Resources)³ and the leaders of at least four major FBI field offices.⁴

¹ *Nomination of Kashyap Pramod Patel to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. (2025) (statement of Kashyap Patel), <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/01/30/2025/nominations>

² See Jeremy Roebuck et al., *Justice Department Orders FBI Purge, Review of Staff Who Touched Jan. 6 Cases*, WASH. POST (Jan. 31, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/01/31/fbi-considering-mass-purge-agents-involved-trump-investigations/>; Pat Milton et al., *FBI Executives Ousted and Personnel Under Internal Review as Trump DOJ Fires Jan. 6 Capitol Riot Prosecutors*, CBS NEWS (Jan. 31, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fbi-agents-on-jan-6-capitol-riot-trump-investigations-to-be-fired-sources-say/>; Evan Perez & Zachary Cohen, *Senior FBI Leaders Ordered to Retire, Resign or Be Fired by Monday*, CNN (Jan. 30, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/01/30/politics/senior-fbi-leaders-demoted-wray/index.html>.

³ Ken Dilanian, Tom Winter, Ryan J. Reilly & Michael Kosnar, *Trump Administration Forces out Multiple Senior FBI Officials and January 6 Prosecutors*, NBC NEWS (Jan. 31, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/trump-administration-forces-multiple-senior-fbi-officials-rca190138>; See also Durbin, *supra*, note 1.

⁴ Kerry Pickett, *FBI Purge: 20+ Top Officials Ousted in Sweeping Shake-Up*, WASHINGTON TIMES (Jan. 31, 2025), <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2025/jan/31/top-fbi-officials-terminated-forced-quit/>; See also Letter from

In addition to wiping out the FBI's most experienced career leadership, Mr. Bove has directed the Bureau to provide a list of current and former FBI employees who were assigned "at any time" to investigate crimes committed during the violent attack on the U.S. Capitol and our police officers on January 6, 2021, in order "to determine whether any additional personnel actions are necessary."⁵ According to reports, this list will include not hundreds but *thousands* of FBI employees who assisted in investigating the most massive violent attack on the U.S. Capitol in history. Mr. Bove's actions come as the Interim U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia has conducted his own nakedly political purge, summarily firing more than a dozen career prosecutors who had been assigned to prosecute January 6th cases.⁶

These actions are institutional reprisals against FBI agents for the apparently egregious offense of *doing their jobs*. These excellent civil service professionals, many of whom have served with distinction under presidents from both political parties, including Donald Trump in his first administration, are not being fired or disciplined for *poor job performance* or *professional misconduct*. They are being punished simply for doing their jobs and doing them well. This is a scandal and an outrage.

As the FBI Agents Association explained in a recent letter to Congress:

Special Agents who risk their lives protecting this country from criminals and terrorists are now being placed on lists and having their careers jeopardized for carrying out the orders they were given by their superiors in the FBI. These actions, which lack transparency and due process, are creating dangerous distractions, imperiling ongoing investigations, and undermining the Bureau's ability to work with state, local, and international partners to make America safe again.⁷

I have learned, for example, that the Special Agent in Charge of the New Orleans field office, a career official who has been a leader in the federal investigation into the recent terrorist attack on Bourbon Street, as well as a key player in the security preparations for this weekend's Super Bowl, is one of the individuals who has been summarily removed from his post.⁸ Further, I understand from news accounts and reports that FBI Special Agents around the country have been told to start "packing their desks," including the agents who have been working through the

Sen. Richard J. Durbin, Ranking Member, S. Comm. on the Judiciary, et al., to Mr. Kashyap Patel, Nominee to be Director of the FBI (Feb. 3, 2025), <https://www.durbin.senate.gov/download/2025-02-03-sjc-dems-letter-to-patel-re-purges>.

⁵ See Roebuck, *supra*, note 2.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Judge William Webster et al., *Joint Letter to Congress on the FBI*, FBI AGENTS ASS'N (Feb. 3, 2025), <https://www.fbiaa.org/joint-letter-to-congress-on-the-fbi>.

⁸ Kerry Picket, *FBI Purge: 20+ Top Officials Ousted in Sweeping Shake-Up*, WASHINGTON TIMES (Jan. 31, 2025), <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2025/jan/31/top-fbi-officials-terminated-forced-quit/>; see also Press Release, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Special Agent in Charge Lyonel Myrthil Delivers Investigative Updates on the New Orleans Bourbon Street Attack* (Jan. 5, 2025), <https://www.fbi.gov/news/speeches/investigative-updates-on-the-new-orleans-bourbon-street-attack-sac-new-orleans-010525>.

night on recovery efforts in the Potomac River, following the airplane and helicopter accident that claimed 67 lives in Washington, D.C., last Thursday.⁹

These are just two examples of how these purges—both threatened and executed—harm the FBI’s ability to seriously carry out its mission to “protect the American people and uphold the U.S. Constitution.”¹⁰ By removing and threatening career personnel, Trump Administration officials are hampering the Bureau’s ability to conduct critical investigations involving terrorism, public corruption, transnational organized crime, cybersecurity, and white-collar criminal offenses.¹¹ Together with President Trump’s sweeping pardons, extended even to members of violent street gangs and militias who beat police officers to a pulp on January 6th, these purges send a clear message that certain individuals are above the law and that any law enforcement officer’s effort to hold the president’s favored wrongdoers accountable will be met with swift retribution.

During your hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, you committed, under oath, to protecting FBI personnel against political retribution. Specifically, you offered concrete assurances that there would be “no politicization” or “retributive actions” and repeatedly committed to honoring standard FBI review processes in any personnel actions at the Bureau.¹²

In light of the promises you made during your confirmation hearings, I am asking for your specific assurances, in writing, that, if confirmed, you will halt the politically motivated purge of career officials at the FBI that is currently under way; reinstate all individuals who were terminated on the instructions of President Trump’s political appointees (including Mr. Bove) as part of this purge; and commit, in writing, to ensuring that all FBI personnel actions will be guided by merit and performance—not sinister political motives—in strict compliance with federal law and the FBI’s standard review processes. Please provide this information as soon as possible, but no later than 10:00 a.m., E.T., on February 10, 2025.

Very truly yours,


Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman

⁹ See Dilanian, *supra*, note 3.

¹⁰ Mission and Priorities, FBI, <https://www.fbi.gov/about/mission> (last visited Feb. 4, 2025).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Nomination of Kashyap Pramod Patel to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. (2025) (statement of Kashyap Patel), <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/01/30/2025/nominations>.