

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906
judiciary.house.gov

October 8, 2025

The Honorable Stanley Edmund Woodward, Jr.
Associate Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Associate Attorney General Woodward:

Last month, we wrote to Attorney General Pam Bondi and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Kash Patel about public reports that the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the FBI had killed an investigation of “Border Czar” Tom Homan for taking a \$50,000 cash bribe in a brown Cava bag from undercover FBI agents posing as corrupt businessmen seeking to purchase future government contracts.¹ Attorney General Bondi and Director Patel have failed to answer that letter.

Additional reports have since emerged about this disturbing episode, along with conflicting and increasingly desperate statements from the White House and Mr. Homan. We write now to follow up and demand that you answer fundamental questions: Who knew about the Homan cash bribery scandal, when did they know it, and why was Mr. Homan appointed “Border Czar” even in the face of such damning evidence of his taking bribes for government contracts?

You led the effort to “fully research and vet all candidates to join the incoming Trump Administration” during the 2024 presidential transition.² The timeline of events during that transition provides a troubling picture. According to public reporting, on September 20, 2024, Mr. Homan accepted a paper bag with \$50,000 in cash from undercover FBI agents posing as

¹ See Letter from Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Pamela J. Bondi, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, and Kashyap Patel, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Sept. 22, 2025), <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-09-22.raskin-nadler-lofgren-et-al-to-bondi-doj-patel-fbi-re-homan-1.pdf>.

² Stanley Edmund Woodward, Jr. *Questionnaire for Non-Judicial Nominees*, U.S. Senate Comm. on the Judiciary, https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/woodward_sjq.pdf; see also Maggie Haberman & Alan Feuer, *Witness in Trump Documents Case Changed Lawyers, and Then Testimony*, N.Y. TIMES (Aug. 22, 2023), <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/22/us/politics/witness-trump-documents-lawyer.html> (noting you represented Walt Nauta, a personal aide to President Trump, in the Mar-a-Lago classified documents investigation).

businessmen looking to buy access to government contracts in a future Trump Administration.³ Yet just three weeks later, on November 10, 2024, while the FBI's investigation into that bribe remained active, President Trump chose to announce Mr. Homan as his choice for "Border Czar."⁴

Under standard FBI procedures for vetting senior appointees, the Bureau would have notified appropriate DOJ leadership about the ongoing criminal investigation into Mr. Homan during that transition period, particularly given his selection for such a high-profile position.⁵ DOJ leadership would have, in turn, informed appropriate personnel on the Trump-Vance Transition Team. We have every reason to believe the normal process was followed here. That means the Trump team knew that its "Border Czar" nominee was under active FBI investigation for accepting a cash bribe in a paper bag, and, nonetheless, President Trump proceeded to formally appoint Mr. Homan to the role on January 20, 2025.

It accordingly appears that the decision to kill the investigation was pre-ordained from the moment Mr. Trump decided to proceed with Mr. Homan's appointment despite overwhelming evidence that he was guilty of conspiracy to commit bribery and sell government contracts for his personal enrichment. Public reporting indicates that then-acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove—President Trump's former criminal defense attorney who was rewarded with a lifetime appointment to the Third Circuit—dutifully made it known that he wanted the investigation closed in early 2025, which led to the investigation then being closed and the cover-up completed.⁶

The White House's conflicting explanations further suggest a scramble to bury the truth of Mr. Homan's actions. Initially, Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt categorically denied that Mr. Homan took the money, claiming that "Mr. Homan never took the \$50,000 that you're referring to."⁷ But she quickly caught herself, adding that the whole thing was really just "FBI agents going undercover to try and entrap one of the President's top allies and supporters."⁸ Mr. Homan himself also all but admitted to taking the cash. During a Fox News appearance, when Laura Ingraham asked him about whether he took the money, Mr. Homan said: "Look, I did nothing

³ Carol Leonnig & Ken Dilanian, *Tom Homan Was Investigated for Accepting \$50,000 From Undercover FBI Agents. Trump's DOJ Shut It Down.*, MSNBC (Sept. 20, 2025), <https://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/news/tom-homan-cash-contracts-trump-doj-investigation-rcna232568>.

⁴ Kaitlan Collins & Colin McCullough, *Trump Announces Tom Homan, His Former Acting ICE Director, Will Be Administration's 'Border Czar'*, CNN (Nov. 11, 2024), <https://www.cnn.com/2024/11/10/politics/tom-homan-border-czar-ice-donald-trump>.

⁵ See, e.g., Chandelis Duster, *FBI Background Checks Of Presidential Nominees, Explained*, NPR (Jan. 15, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/01/15/nx-s1-5260953/fbi-background-checks-confirmation-presidential-nominee>.

⁶ Carol Leonnig & Ken Dilanian, *Tom Homan Was Investigated for Accepting \$50,000 From Undercover FBI Agents. Trump's DOJ Shut It Down.*, MSNBC (Sept. 20, 2025), <https://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/news/tom-homan-cash-contracts-trump-doj-investigation-rcna232568>.

⁷ See Devlin Barrett, *White House Denies Homan Took Bag of Cash in F.B.I. Inquiry*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 22, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/22/us/politics/homan-cash.html>.

⁸ *Id.*

criminal, I did nothing illegal.... And I'm glad the FBI and DOJ said that nothing illegal happened, no criminal activity."⁹

Americans need to know whether the President colluded with Justice Department leadership to protect a corrupt official at the center of the President's immigration crackdown whom he knowingly appointed despite evidence of bribery. And Mr. Homan's tacit admission that he accepted a paper bag stuffed with \$50,000 in cash, combined with the White House's defensive claims about government "entrapment," all further suggest the likelihood of pay-to-play corruption at the highest levels of this Administration.

These facts raise essential and inescapable questions:

1. When exactly was the Trump-Vance Transition Team informed about the FBI's ongoing investigation into Mr. Homan for taking this money?
2. Why did President Trump nonetheless decide to move forward with Mr. Homan's appointment on January 20, 2025? Was this ongoing investigation part of the reason Mr. Homan was not appointed to a role requiring U.S. Senate confirmation?
3. Who was involved in deciding that Mr. Bove would kill the investigation into Mr. Homan and attempt to cover up the bribe?
4. Did the President appoint any other persons to public office who were the targets of ongoing criminal investigations?
5. Were those investigations similarly killed?
6. If the Administration's position is that the \$50,000 was lawfully accepted because Mr. Homan was being "entrapped" by federal agents, did the Administration move at the time to report the FBI agents involved for entrapment or other forms of professional misconduct? Were the agents involved in conducting the putatively unlawful sting operation admonished, reprimanded, or otherwise disciplined?
7. Was the \$50,000 cash payment, which the Administration apparently thinks was lawful, properly declared on Mr. Homan's federal and state taxes? Where is the money now? Was it kept or returned to the FBI?

Accordingly, and pursuant to the House Judiciary Committee's jurisdiction over the DOJ and FBI and our continuing investigation into the Administration's pattern of abusing its prosecutorial and law enforcement functions, we demand that you provide answers to these questions and provide the documents described below to the Committee no later than 5:00 p.m., October 22, 2025:

⁹ See Malcolm Ferguson, *Tom Homan Accidentally Makes Crucial Admission on That \$50K Cash Bribe*, NEW REPUBLIC (Sept. 23, 2025), <https://newrepublic.com/post/200788/tom-homan-50k-cash-bribe>.


1. All memoranda, briefing materials, emails, and other documents the FBI provided to any DOJ official or employee, including acting Deputy Attorney General Bove, Attorney General Bondi, Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, Director Patel, or any other senior DOJ or FBI official, regarding the investigation of Tom Homan, during the presidential transition period and the first 100 days of the Administration, spanning November 5, 2024, through April 30, 2025;
2. All memoranda, briefing materials, emails, and other documents the FBI or DOJ provided to any member of the Trump-Vance Transition Team or any White House official or employee regarding the investigation of Tom Homan, during the presidential transition period and the first 100 days of the Administration, spanning November 5, 2024, through April 30, 2025;
3. All memoranda and communications from any member of the Trump-Vance Transition Team, the White House, or the Trump Administration to the DOJ or FBI regarding the Homan investigation;
4. All documents reflecting any decision to terminate, suspend, or otherwise alter the Homan investigation following any briefing to the Trump-Vance Transition Team or any White House official or employee;
5. All protocols, policies, or guidance documents governing DOJ and FBI procedures for notifying incoming administrations about ongoing investigations of prospective appointees or senior officials; and
6. All documents related to the disposition of the \$50,000 in cash provided to Mr. Homan by undercover FBI agents, including any efforts to recover or track the funds, any legal analysis of whether Mr. Homan could retain the funds, any communications regarding whether Mr. Homan should report these funds on financial disclosure forms or federal and state tax returns, and the current location and status of these funds.

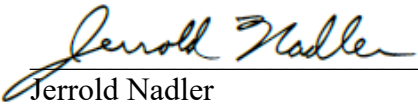
For documents responsive to the requests above in the possession of the FBI, please produce all emails on UNET, FBINET, and SCION pertaining to the case, as well as any Teams messages from UNET and Lync messages from FBINET. If you believe any of these materials cannot be released for any reason, the Committee can arrange to view them *in camera* instead. This is a matter of profound public interest and urgency.

We look forward to your prompt compliance with these critical oversight requests.


Very truly yours,


Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

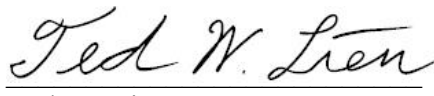

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress




Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress




Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



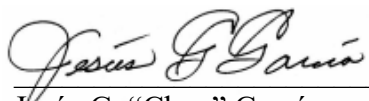
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Joseph Neguse
Member of Congress



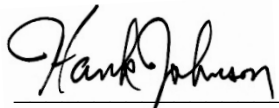
Deborah Ross
Member of Congress



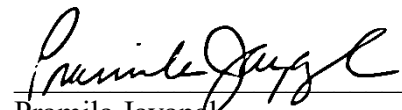
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



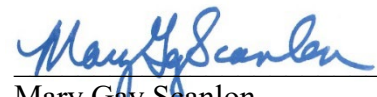
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress




Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



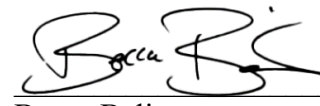
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



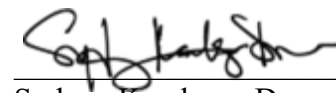
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress




Becca Balint
Member of Congress



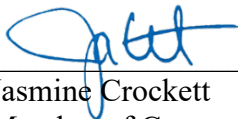
Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman