

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

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March 21, 2025

Mr. Charles Ezell  
Acting Director  
U.S. Office of Personnel Management  
1900 E St, NW  
Washington, DC 20415

Dear Acting Director Ezell,

We write in strong opposition to the Trump Administration's unprecedented and dangerous efforts to purge nonpartisan civil servants from the federal workforce. Our Commonwealth is home to more than 46,000 federal employees who play an essential role in safeguarding the health, safety, and economic well-being of Massachusetts. These indiscriminate cuts threaten the core functioning of critical federal services and will harm our constituents. We request that you provide detailed and complete information regarding federal employees in Massachusetts who have been terminated, placed on leave, transferred, or subjected to a reduction in force (RIF) as part of this purge.

On January 28, 2025, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) sent an email to more than 2 million federal employees with the subject line "The Fork in the Road." The email outlined a so-called "deferred resignation" offer for federal employees with a response deadline of February 6, 2025 – a deadline only extended by court order.<sup>1</sup>

The Administration then escalated its attack by mass-firing employees in their probationary period, blatantly exploiting the fewer legal protections afforded to them. On January 20, 2025, OPM issued a memorandum titled, "Guidance on Probationary Periods, Administrative Leave and Details," which ordered agencies to identify and submit to OPM a list of employees within their probationary periods.<sup>2</sup> According to public reporting, your agency played a direct role in prioritizing these dismissals.<sup>3</sup> Two federal judges found the termination program illegal and required the reinstatement of impacted workers.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Judge Extends Government Buyout Offer Amid Push to Strike Down Deal*, The Hill (Feb. 10, 2025) (online at [thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/5136860-federal-judge-extends-buyout-deadline/](https://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/5136860-federal-judge-extends-buyout-deadline/)).

<sup>2</sup> Memorandum from Acting Director Charles Ezell, Office of Personnel Management, to Heads and Acting Heads of Departments and Agencies, *Guidance on Probationary Periods, Administrative Leave and Details* (Jan. 20, 2025) (online at [www.opm.gov/media/yh3bv2fs/guidance-on-probationary-periods-administrative-leave-and-details-1-20-2025-final.pdf](https://www.opm.gov/media/yh3bv2fs/guidance-on-probationary-periods-administrative-leave-and-details-1-20-2025-final.pdf)).

<sup>3</sup> *OPM Advises Agencies to Fire Probationary Employees After "Deferred Resignation" Deadline*, Federal News Network (Feb. 13, 2025) (online at <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/workforce/2025/02/opm-fires-probationary-employees-after-deferred-resignation-deadline/>); *With Elon Musk Watching, Trump Says He's Giving DOGE Even More Power*, NBC News (Feb. 11, 2025) (online at [www.nbcnews.com/politics/doge/elon-musk-trump-doge-executive-order-rcna191751](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/doge/elon-musk-trump-doge-executive-order-rcna191751)).

<sup>4</sup> *Two judges in mass firings cases order Trump administration to rehire probationary workers for now*, Associated Press (March 13, 2025) (online at [apnews.com/article/mass-firings-federal-workers-trump-administration-7cc7320f469cc65529367aaea2fd9dcb](https://apnews.com/article/mass-firings-federal-workers-trump-administration-7cc7320f469cc65529367aaea2fd9dcb)).

On February 11, 2025, President Trump, joined by unelected billionaire Elon Musk, issued a sweeping Executive Order titled “Implementing the President’s ‘Department of Government Efficiency’ Workforce Optimization Initiative,”<sup>5</sup> which mandated mass layoffs across the federal government under the guise of “efficiency.” Shortly thereafter, federal agencies across the government began firing thousands of probationary employees.<sup>6</sup>

The Administration’s executive overreach undermines federal agencies, including in critical areas of disaster preparedness, public health, public safety, and national security. Moreover, in Massachusetts, every Department of Education employee in the Boston regional office has been fired, upending the Commonwealth’s ability to administer Title I funding and resolve more than 300 pending education-related civil rights cases.<sup>7</sup> This reckless purge directly harms children and families who rely on Head Start, after-school programs, and disability accommodations.

Similarly, nearly 10,000 dedicated employees at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in Massachusetts – who provide lifesaving healthcare and services to our veterans – are under threat from downsizing efforts.<sup>8</sup> Many of those targeted are veterans themselves, betrayed as they seek to continue serving our country. These attacks on public servants and the communities they support are unacceptable, and our constituents deserve better.

Given the significant impacts of the Administration’s purge on our state, we request that you provide the following information by April 4, 2025:

1. The number of federal employees in Massachusetts since January 20, 2025, that have been terminated, placed on administrated leave, taken early retirement, or been subject to a RIF broken down by agency, county, congressional district, GS level, and average length of federal service;
2. The number of veterans who held positions with the federal government in Massachusetts since January 20, 2025, that have been terminated, placed on administrated leave, taken early retirement, or been subject to a RIF broken down by agency, county, congressional district, GS level, and average length of federal service;

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<sup>5</sup> Exec. Order. No. 14210, 96 Federal Register 9669 (Feb. 11, 2025) (online at [www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/14/2025-02762/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative](http://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/14/2025-02762/implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency-workforce-optimization-initiative)).

<sup>6</sup> Widespread Layoffs of Probationary Employees Begin, FEDweek (Feb. 14, 2025) (online at [www.fedweek.com/fedweek/widespread-layoffs-of-probationary-employees-begin/](http://www.fedweek.com/fedweek/widespread-layoffs-of-probationary-employees-begin/)).

<sup>7</sup> Trump can’t unilaterally abolish the U.S. Department of Education. But mass layoffs can get him close, Boston Globe (March 12, 2025) (online at [www.bostonglobe.com/2025/03/12/metro/education-department-trump-layoffs-boston](http://www.bostonglobe.com/2025/03/12/metro/education-department-trump-layoffs-boston)).

<sup>8</sup> Veterans Affairs workforce reduction could have big impact in New England, Boston Globe (March 7, 2025) (online at [www.bostonglobe.com/2025/03/07/metro/va-70000-jobs-cuts](http://www.bostonglobe.com/2025/03/07/metro/va-70000-jobs-cuts)).

3. The number of federal employees in Massachusetts that have accepted the Administration's "deferred resignation" offer broken down by agency, county, congressional district, GS level, and average length of federal service; and
4. A detailed plan explaining how OPM will work with agencies and our state government to ensure that RIFs do not result in delays or disruptions to programs and benefits, including but not limited to Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid, on which our constituents rely.

Thank you for your prompt response to this matter.

Sincerely,



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Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



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Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress



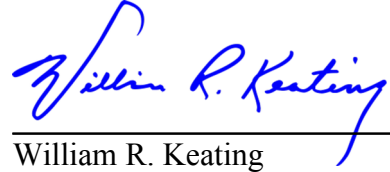
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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



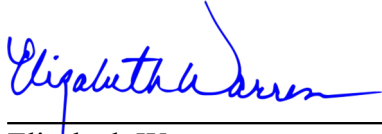
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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



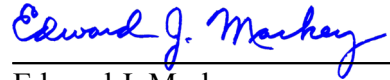
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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator