



One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 14, 2025

Dr. Madhu Gottumukkala
Acting Director
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
1110 N. Glebe Rd.
Arlington, VA 20598-0630

Dear Acting Director Gottumukkala:

I write to urgently request information on the status of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) workforce. Since taking office, the Trump Administration has undertaken multiple efforts to decimate CISA's workforce, undermining our nation's cybersecurity. Amid reports that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS or the Department) is now forcibly transferring CISA's cybersecurity employees to other DHS components, it has become apparent that the Department's exclusive focus on its mass deportation campaign is coming at the expense of our national security. As further evidence of the Administration's failure to prioritize cybersecurity, CISA is now engaging in Reductions in Force (RIFs) that threaten CISA's capacity to prevent and respond to cybersecurity threats. I demand you immediately cease all efforts to cut CISA's workforce, reinstate employees who were transferred or dismissed, and provide details on the impacts of the agency's workforce reductions.

In February, CISA initiated efforts to terminate approximately 130 probationary employees.¹ CISA additionally incentivized employees to resign from their positions, with the looming threat of mass layoffs.² While DHS provided the Committee preliminary numbers of how many employees expressed interest in participating in the DHS Workforce Transition Program, DHS and CISA have refused to share final numbers on how many employees have left the agency – despite numerous requests from Committee staff. With this lack of clarity on CISA's workforce, in April, I sent a letter to CISA requesting a briefing on “proposed changes to CISA's workforce

¹ Nicole Sganga and Camilo Montoya-Galvez, *Trump administration fires over 400 DHS employees as mass firings continue*, CBS NEWS (Feb. 16, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-administration-fires-over-400-dhs-employees/>.

² Jenna McLaughlin, *CISA staffers offered deferred resignations, extending broader cybersecurity fears*, NPR (Feb. 6, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/02/06/nx-s1-5288883/cisa-staffers-deferred-resignations-doge>.

and programs as soon as possible.”³ I have not received the requested briefing or any additional details on the status of CISA’s current workforce. Instead, the Committee has had to rely on already outdated, publicly available information in DHS’s Lapse in Appropriations plan, which reported that CISA had 2,540 employees on board as of May 31, 2025,⁴ down from roughly 3,300 employees in January.⁵

Even though CISA is already operating with a significantly reduced workforce during a time of unprecedented cybersecurity threats, multiple reports indicate that CISA employees are now being forcibly reassigned to other DHS components to support the Trump Administration’s mass deportation efforts.⁶ Transferred employees reportedly include those working in CISA’s Cybersecurity Division, particularly in capacity building efforts, and the Stakeholder Engagement Division, including those supporting the international affairs efforts that enables collaboration with allied and partner nations on global cybersecurity threats. These mandatory reassignments include geographical relocations and include the threat of termination if employees decline to move for new positions. To make matters worse, at the direction of Office of Management and Budget Director Russell Vought, CISA has carried out RIFs, further diminishing CISA’s capabilities.⁷ To be clear, the reported RIFs are not required under law, and in fact may be prohibited by it. The only reason for these RIFs is to further terrorize hardworking federal employees the Administration was unable to harass into leaving their jobs earlier this year.

I should not need to remind you that cybersecurity threats pose a significant and growing risk to our national security. Just last month, CISA issued an emergency directive to Federal agencies to address an ongoing campaign to compromise certain Cisco devices.⁸ As Secretary Noem testified before the Homeland Security Committee in May, “Chinese-affiliated actors have compromised

³ Letter from Hon. Eric Swalwell, Ranking Member, H. Subcomm. on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection of the H. Comm. on Homeland Sec. to Ms. Bridget Bean, Acting Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (Apr. 9, 2025) (on file with the Committee).

⁴ *Procedures Related to a Lapse in Appropriations*, Dep’t of Homeland Sec. (Sept. 29, 2025), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-09/2025_0930_dhs_procedures_related_to_a_lapse_in_appropriations.pdf.

⁵ Justin Doubleday, *Easterly hails CISA’s ‘world-class’ talent in final address*, FEDERAL NEWS NETWORK (Jan. 16, 2025), <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/cybersecurity/2025/01/easterly-hails-cisas-world-class-talent-in-final-address/>.

⁶ David DiMolfetta, *Hundreds of DHS staff face reassignments to border security, immigration*, NEXTGOV/FCW (Oct. 9, 2025), <https://www.nextgov.com/people/2025/10/hundreds-dhs-staff-face-reassignments-border-security-immigration/408707/>; Patrick Howell O’Neill and Jeff Stone, *Homeland Security Cyber Personnel Reassigned to Jobs in Trump’s Deportation Push*, BLOOMBERG (Oct. 8, 2025), <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-10-08/homeland-security-cyber-personnel-reassigned-to-jobs-in-trump-s-deportation-push>.

⁷ Jory Heckman, *OMB says ‘substantial’ federal employee layoffs have begun*, FEDERAL NEWS NETWORK (Oct. 10, 2025), <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/government-shutdown/2025/10/omb-says-substantial-federal-employee-layoffs-have-begun/>.

⁸ Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, ED 25-03: Identify and Mitigate Potential Compromise of Cisco Devices (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/directives/ed-25-03-identify-and-mitigate-potential-compromise-cisco-devices>.

multiple communications, energy, transportation, and water critical infrastructure organizations across the country.”⁹ In order to combat these threats, CISA needs to have sufficient personnel to carry out its mission, particularly at a time when canceled contracts and cooperative agreements have left CISA without critical third-party support. For example, at the end of September, CISA terminated its longstanding agreement with the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, which Congress had funded with \$27 million in FY 2025, instead claiming that CISA’s own services and regional advisors would support state and local governments that routinely face cyber attacks.¹⁰ CISA’s ongoing efforts to reduce its workforce suggest it plans to leave state and local governments on their own for cyber defense.

In order for the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection to understand the current state of CISA’s workforce, please respond to the following inquiries by October 24, 2025:

1. How many employees are currently employed at CISA, excluding any who are participating in the DHS Workforce Transition Program? Please provide a breakdown by Division and Project, Program, or Activity (PPA) at the level of detail provided in the funding table included in the explanatory statement accompanying the FY 2024 omnibus spending bill.
2. What is the final number of employees who participated in the DHS Workforce Transition Program? Please provide a breakdown by Division and PPA at the level of detail provided in the funding table included in the explanatory statement accompanying the FY 2024 omnibus spending bill.
3. How many CISA employees have been ordered reassigned to other DHS components under a Management-Directed Reassignment? How many have transferred and how many have been terminated for refusing a reassignment? Please provide a breakdown by Division and PPA at the level of detail provided in the funding table included in the explanatory statement accompanying the FY 2024 omnibus spending bill.
4. How many CISA employees have been terminated as part of a RIF? Please provide a breakdown by Division and PPA at the level of detail provided in the funding table included in the explanatory statement accompanying the FY 2024 omnibus spending bill.

⁹ *A New Era of Homeland Security: A Review of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security: Testimony before the H. Comm. on Homeland Sec.*, 119th Cong. (statement of Sec. Kristi Noem, Dep’t of Homeland Sec.), <https://homeland.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/2025-05-14-HRG-Testimony-Noem.pdf>.

¹⁰ Press Release, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, CISA is Strengthening Our Nation’s Security with Direct Cyber Support to State and Local Governments (Sept. 29, 2025), <https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/news/cisa-strengthening-our-nations-security-direct-cyber-support-state-and-local-governments>.

5. How many Security Advisors and Cybersecurity State Coordinators are currently employed by CISA? Please provide a breakdown by state.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Eric Swalwell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity
and Infrastructure Protection

cc: The Honorable Andrew R. Garbarino, Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security