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April 23, 2026

The Honorable Keith E. Sonderling
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Acting Secretary Sonderling:

Following the resignation of Secretary Chavez-DeRemer, I write to respectfully remind you of requirements related to records management and preservation under the *Federal Records Act of 1950* (FRA),¹ as amended. This is particularly relevant given that, according to news organizations, former Secretary Chavez-DeRemer is being investigated by the Department of Labor's (DOL or Department) Inspector General (IG).² Such investigations reportedly include whether the former Secretary violated federal rules regarding taxpayer-funded travel and inappropriately influenced agency grant-making decisions.³ According to the press, the former Secretary also was the subject of several civil rights complaints and accused of creating a hostile work environment.⁴ The preservation of records in accordance with the FRA is critical to ensuring that the IG can complete its investigations into the former Secretary and Congress can fulfill its essential oversight responsibilities.

As you are aware, the FRA requires all departments and agencies in the Executive Branch to collect, retain, and preserve records that document "the transaction of public business" or contain "informational value."⁵ The FRA requires the head of each federal agency to "make and

¹ Pub. L. No. 81-754 (1950).

² See Rebecca Davis O'Brien & Evan Gorelick, *Labor Secretary Is a Rare Presence at Department in Turmoil*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 2, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/02/us/politics/labor-secretary-chavez-deremer-investigation.html>; Nick Niedzwiadek, *Fourth Labor Department Staffer Leaves Amid Investigation of Chavez-DeRemer*, POLITICO (Mar. 26, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/03/26/fourth-labor-department-staffer-leaves-amid-investigation-of-chavez-deremer-00846461>.

³ See Nick Niedzwiadek, *Chavez-DeRemer Security Staffer Placed on Leave Amid Scandal Investigation*, POLITICO (Jan. 23, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/01/23/lori-chavez-deremer-security-staffer-leave-investigation-00745067>.

⁴ See Rebecca Davis O'Brien, *Labor Secretary Faces Civil Rights Complaints from Department Staff*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 9, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/04/09/business/economy/labor-secretary-misconduct-complaints.html>.

⁵ 44 U.S.C. § 3301(a)(1)(A).

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preserve records containing adequate and proper documentation of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, and essential transactions of the agency”.⁶ These protections extend to all types of information, whether stored physically, digitally, or electronically.⁷ Further, these requirements apply to all subagencies, offices, departments, and other organizational components under DOL’s purview, as well as to all Department personnel.

Federal officials and employees who violate the FRA are subject to criminal penalties. Any agency employee who “willfully and unlawfully conceals, removes, mutilates, obliterates, falsifies, or destroys” or attempts any such action against a federal record is subject to fine and/or imprisonment for up to three years.⁸ In addition, any federal office holder convicted of violating the FRA can lose his/her position and can be disqualified from holding future federal office.⁹ Moreover, the head of an agency, such as DOL, governed by the FRA has the responsibility to notify the Archivist of the United States of any actual, impending, or threatened unlawful action against records at the agency.¹⁰

I request an assurance, in writing, by May 7, 2026, that records, documents, data, or information have not been and will not be concealed, modified, removed, transferred, destroyed, or otherwise rendered inaccessible following the former Secretary’s resignation.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please send all official correspondence and information related to this request to the Committee’s Democratic staff at EWDOversight@mail.house.gov. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Tim Walberg, Chairman, Committee on Education and Workforce

⁶ 44 U.S.C. § 3101.

⁷ See 44 U.S.C. § 3301(a)(2).

⁸ See 18 U.S.C. § 2071(b).

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ See 44 U.S.C. § 3106(b).