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June 10, 2025

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer:

Thank you for testifying before the Education and Workforce Committee on Thursday, June 5, 2025, on the Department of Labor's (DOL or the Department) Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Budget. During my question time, you graciously offered to provide responses in writing or to follow up with a complete response. To that end, I have listed below the issues for which I seek responses from you and the Department. Thank you for your attention to the matters below.

1. You testified that the proposed elimination of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) within the Department is at least partially the result of OFCCP being "duplicative." Provide the Department's legal analysis of how OFCCP is "duplicative" of other agencies' responsibilities.
2. Under the Department's FY26 Budget, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) would be "reorganize[d] [...] under the policy direction of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs."¹ As you know, BLS is one of the four original bureaus included in the organic statute establishing DOL.² The law explicitly states that the BLS "shall collect, collate, and report" under "the direction of the Secretary of Labor."³ As a result, BLS may not be reorganized without a change to DOL's organic statute. Please confirm.
3. At the hearing, you testified that it is your understanding that the Department no longer plans to close 34 offices of the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) as

¹ *Bureau of Labor Statistics: Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request*, Department of Labor (2025), <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/general/budget/2026/CBJ-2026-V3-01.pdf>.

² Judson MacLaury, *A Brief History: The U.S. Department of Labor*, Department of Labor (last accessed May 6, 2025), <https://www.dol.gov/general/aboutdol/history/dolhistoxford>.

³ Act of Mar. 4, 1913, Pub. L. No. 62-146, 37 Stat. 736, § 2 (codified as amended at 29 U.S.C. § 2).

previously reported⁴, and you offered to provide me with some specifics. It is my understanding the Department still plans to close at least four MSHA offices, including a district office that was created after Upper Big Branch.

- a. What standard was used to reopen any offices that were previously shuttered?
 - b. What is the Department's plan for the District 12 office? Will the district staff be relocated to a different physical space, or will the district boundaries be altered (and, if so, how)?
4. During your testimony, you agreed to address the problem involving injured federal employees around the country who are receiving emails telling them that the hearings they need to resolve their workers' compensation claims are being canceled because the Department has terminated its contract for court reporters to transcribe the hearings. Some stakeholders have expressed to Committee staff a belief that the Department's Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) may also lack sufficient numbers of hearing representatives to resolve appeals.
 - a. Why, if the Department knew that court reporters were required for FECA hearings, did your Department cancel this contract?
 - b. When do you anticipate that a contract for hearing transcriptions will be renewed or initiated to replace the canceled contract?
 - c. How many hearing representatives (i) did OWCP have on staff as of January 20, 2025, and (ii) does OWCP currently have on staff?
 - d. Does the number of hearing representatives affect OWCP's ability to hold hearings?
 - e. Are you planning on hiring additional hearing representatives? If so, how will your planned staffing level for hearing representatives compare to the level before January 20, 2025, and by what date do you anticipate achieving that staffing level?
 - f. How is OWCP ensuring that statutory and due process requirements to provide benefits and medical care are followed while these hearings are not taking place?
 - g. What plan does the Department have to resume holding hearings for injured federal employees?
5. During your testimony you stated that you were unaware that Elon Musk was under investigation by some of the offices within the Department of Labor. Specifically, you offered to get a response to me about areas of investigation into Musk and his businesses that are in DOL's purview.
 - a. Please confirm those agencies within DOL that are investigating Elon Musk and his business, as well as the status and scope of such investigations.
 - b. Did DOGE have access to the investigation files of these investigations?
 - c. Did DOGE have access to sensitive information, such as jobs numbers before they were public?

⁴ Press Release, United Mine Workers of America, United Mine Workers of America Responds to Reversal of MSHA Office Closures (May 30, 2025), <https://umwa.org/news-media/news/press-release-united-mine-workers-of-america-responds-to-reversal-of-msha-office-closures/>.

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- d. What restrictions did you place on DOGE's access to information within DOL?
 - e. What assurance do you have that DOGE cannot access any information in the DOL computer system now?
6. Have you completed the responses to all oversight letters sent to you by my office, and when do you anticipate I will receive them?

Given the time sensitive nature of my questions, I look forward to receiving your replies to my inquiries from the hearing no later than Tuesday, June 17, 2025. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

Ranking Member