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May 6, 2026

Ms. Orice Williams Brown  
Acting Comptroller General of the United States  
U.S. Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Ms. Williams Brown:

With the return of the Trump Administration in January 2025, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) was part of a massive government-wide personnel reduction project. As a result, DOL terminated employees across at least six agencies in recent months and encouraged others to take early retirement through the Deferred Resignation Program (DRP).<sup>1</sup> In addition, the Administration has announced the closure of several DOL offices, which may further affect DOL's capacity to protect workers.<sup>2</sup> More recently, reports have emerged about reversals of some of those decisions.<sup>3</sup>

The full scope of DOL's staff reductions and office closures is unknown and could potentially impact the agency's ability to carry out its mission, including ensuring fair pay and safe workplaces for workers. We are particularly interested in how staff reductions and office closures have impacted DOL capacity and operations at the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and Wage and Hour Division (WHD).

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Rebecca Rainey, *Labor Department to Lose 20% of Staff to Resignation Offers*, BLOOMBERG DAILY LAB. REP. (Apr. 22, 2025), <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/daily-labor-report/labor-department-to-lose-20-of-staff-to-fork-resignation-offer>; *Bicameral Oversight Letter to Secretary Chavez-DeRemer re: DOL Staff Cuts*, H. COMM. ON EDUC. & WRKF. DEMS. (Mar. 12, 2025), <https://democrats-edworkforce.house.gov/download/bicameral-oversight-letter-to-secretary-chavez-deremer-re-dol-staff-cuts>.

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., Letter from Reps. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott & Ilhan Omar to Acting Sec'y of Lab. Vince Micone (Mar. 6, 2025), [https://democrats-edworkforce.house.gov/imo/media/doc/scott\\_omar\\_letter\\_to\\_dol\\_re\\_msha\\_staff\\_cuts.pdf](https://democrats-edworkforce.house.gov/imo/media/doc/scott_omar_letter_to_dol_re_msha_staff_cuts.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Rebecca Rainey, *Labor Department Brings Back Staff Who Took 'Fork' Offer to Quit*, BLOOMBERG DAILY LAB. REP. (Sept. 18, 2025), <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/daily-labor-report/labor-department-brings-back-staff-who-took-fork-offer-to-quit>; Nick Niedzwiadek, *DOL Drops OFCCP RIF Plan in Favor of Transferring Staffers*, POLITICO PRO (Aug. 4, 2025), <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/08/dol-drops-rif-plan-to-transfer-ofccp-staffers-instead-00491721>.

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To assess the impact of these DOL staff reductions and office closures, we are requesting the Government Accountability Office provide information in response to the following questions:

- 1) What is known about the current state of DOL personnel? How many DOL employees have been involuntarily removed or voluntarily accepted an incentive to leave the agency, from January 20, 2025, through the date of this letter, what were their characteristics, and what were the associated savings and costs (including the cost of paying employees to cease working and then restore them to active employment)? Between these staff reductions and staffers leaving DOL of their own volition during the same period, through attrition other than DRP or reductions in force, to what extent has DOL filled positions or left them unfilled, across DOL and by agency?
- 2) Which DOL offices were closed from January 20, 2025, through the date of this letter, what were their characteristics, and what were the associated savings and costs? To what extent, if any, have such office closures affected the capacity of agencies such as OSHA, MSHA, and WHD to execute their missions?
- 3) What are DOL's plans for future workforce reductions and office closures for the rest of this Administration, including the anticipated savings and costs?
- 4) What are DOL's desired outcomes for its workforce reduction and reorganization efforts, and how does DOL plan to achieve them?
- 5) To what extent has DOL followed selected leading practices for agency reforms to (a) effectively plan for and implement its reorganization, and (b) mitigate risks to public service delivery?

We understand that the implementation of workforce reductions and office closures are evolving rapidly. Given the scope of these issues, we understand GAO may pursue various options for carrying out this work. We also understand that there may be broad congressional interest in this request and, accordingly, are amenable to any other Member of Congress signing onto the work as a co-requester.

Thank you for your timely attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response. If you have any questions concerning this request, please contact the Committee's Democratic staff at [EWDOversight@mail.house.gov](mailto:EWDOversight@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and Workforce



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Ilhan Omar  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Workforce Protections