



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

April 16, 2020

The Honorable Chad Wolf
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf:

We write today seeking documents related to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) actions to ensure the continuity of its essential government functions in response to the novel coronavirus COVID-19.

As you know, continuity of operations (COOP) is a federal initiative, required by presidential directive, to ensure that agencies are able to continue performing their essential functions under a broad range of circumstances.¹ Accordingly, agencies are required to have comprehensive continuity programs and plans in place that identify how they will continue—or rapidly resume—essential functions during a disruption to normal operations.² The types of disruptions agencies are to plan for include public health emergencies, such as pandemics.³

Since DHS is the designated lead for ensuring COOP preparedness across the Executive Branch, it is vital that the Department serve as a model for implementing effective COOP plans and procedures when necessary. To enable the Committee to understand the extent to which the Department had plans in place to ensure continuity of its essential functions in the event of a pandemic, please provide to the Committee by April 30 the following documents, which the Department should have readily available:

1. DHS's Continuity Multi-Year Strategy and Program Management Plan for Fiscal Years 2018-2022;

¹ *Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) 40, National Continuity Policy*, WHITE HOUSE, July 15, 2016. PPD 40 directs the Secretary of Homeland Security through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate the implementation, execution, and assessment of continuity activities among executive departments and agencies.

² *Federal Continuity Directive 1, Federal Executive Branch National Continuity Program and Requirements*, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, Jan. 17, 2017, <https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1486472423990-f640b42b9073d78693795bb7da4a7af2/January2017FCD1.pdf>.

³ *Ibid.*

2. The most recent Department-level COOP plan; and
3. Each DHS component's most recently approved COOP plan.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Chairman



XOCHITL TORRES SMALL
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Oversight, Management,
and Accountability