



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

September 18, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

The Committee on Homeland Security (Committee) continues its investigation of the Department of Homeland Security's (Department) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) roles in counter- "mis-, dis-, and malinformation" (MDM) efforts. On May 10, 2023, the Committee's Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability Subcommittee sent a letter requesting documents and information from the Department related to MDM and CISA's role in censoring Americans' speech.¹ To date, the Department failed to respond or produce a single substantive document. The Department's continuing lack of transparency about its countering MDM efforts is unacceptable.

Since May 10, 2023, the Committee interviewed several staff members of the Election Integrity Partnership's (EIP) participatory organizations.² Through these transcribed interviews, the Committee confirmed that CISA introduced the EIP to the Center for Internet Security (CIS)³ and that communication among these groups continued up to and through the 2020 presidential election.⁴ The Committee also received documents from the Stanford Internet Observatory (SIO) that confirmed our concerns that CISA's Countering Foreign Influence Task Force and CIS actively participated in the EIP's system to pressure social media companies to moderate content.⁵

These revelations heighten our concern about CISA's role in censoring American speech, either directly or by proxy. The Committee is, therefore, considering potential legislation to limit

¹ Letter from Hon. Dan Bishop, Chairman, Subcomm. on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability of the H. Comm. on Homeland Sec., to Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec., (May 10, 2023) (on file with Comm.).

² The Election Integrity Partnership is made up of four organizations, the Stanford Internet Observatory, the University of Washington's Center for an Informed Public, The Atlantic Council's DFR Lab, and Graphika. ELECTION INTEGRITY PARTNERSHIP, THE LONG FUSE: MISINFORMATION AND THE 2020 ELECTION vi (2021), <https://stacks.stanford.edu/file/druid:tr171zs0069/EIP-Final-Report.pdf>.

³ Transcribed Interview by H. Comm. on Homeland Sec. with Alex Stamos, Director of the Stanford Internet Observatory, in Washington, D.C. (July 18, 2023) at 123.

⁴ Stanford Internet Observatory, JIRA ticketing document production (on file with Comm.).

⁵ Stanford Internet Observatory, JIRA ticketing document production (on file with Comm.).

CISA's counter-MDM authorities and related grant programs. To fully inform potential legislation, the Committee requires a complete picture of the Department's and CISA's current counter-MDM efforts and participation in social media censorship.

Our May 10, 2023, letter requested that the Department produce documents and information by May 24, 2023. The production of those documents are now 117 days overdue. As an accommodation, we are prioritizing the requested documents from the May 10, 2023, letter to the list below. Please provide the following documents as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 2, 2023:

1. Documents sufficient to show how the Department and CISA currently define "malign MDM actors," "MDM," and "counter-MDM;"
2. Document sufficient to show the Department's and CISA's standard operating procedures or other guidance regarding domestic aspects of the Department's and CISA's counter-MDM efforts;
3. Documents sufficient to show the current organization chart of CISA's MDM Team (formerly the Countering Foreign Influence Task Force) to include names and locations of team members;
4. Documents sufficient to show CISA's MDM Team's current mission and active projects;
5. Documents sufficient to show the history of CISA's MDM Team's and the Countering Foreign Influence Task Force's resourcing, including operating costs and any financial support to other government or non-government entities from January 1, 2021, to the present;
6. Documents sufficient to show the relationship between CISA and CIS, EIP, and their respective affiliates (to include activities involving the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing & Analysis Center);
7. Documents sufficient to show funding CISA or the Department have provided directly or indirectly to support CIS, EIP, and their respective affiliates and activities from January 1, 2020, to the present;
8. All documents and communications referring or related to discussions CISA held regarding the establishment of the EIP, support or direction CISA provided in the standup of EIP, and how CISA intended to work with EIP to address election-related MDM in the 2020 election, from June 1, 2020, through November 3, 2020; and
9. All documents and communications referring or relating to CISA's decision to add delegitimization as criteria for election infrastructure-related MDM, CISA's development of the definition of delegitimization, and CISA's action to encourage

Secretary Mayorkas
September 18, 2023
Page 3

social media platforms to add delegitimization to their content moderation policies from December 1, 2019, to the present.

An attachment contains instructions for responding to this request. Please contact the Committee on Homeland Security Majority staff at (202) 226-8417 with any questions about this request.

Per Rule X of the U.S House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security is the principal committee of jurisdiction for overall homeland security policy, and has special oversight functions of “all Government activities relating to homeland security, including the interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of Homeland Security.”

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



MARK E. GREEN, M.D.
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



DAN BISHOP
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight,
Investigations, and Accountability

Encl.

cc: The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Glenn Ivey, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability