

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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December 19, 2017

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

I am writing to request copies of the final downsizing plans that the Trump Administration directed each agency to submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) by the end of September.

As you know, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has jurisdiction over both the federal workforce and proposed agency reorganizations, and the Trump Administration is now in the midst of one of the largest reorganizations in decades with virtually no oversight by Congress. As Members of this Committee, we believe it is our job to analyze the Administration's plans to determine if, and to what extent, these massive reductions in staffing will impact the services the American people rely on every single day—particularly when the President and Republicans in Congress have been promoting a tax cut that will primarily benefit the rich while increasing the federal deficit by more than \$1 trillion.

On January 23, 2017, President Trump issued a Presidential Memorandum that put in place a government-wide hiring freeze:

I hereby order a freeze on the hiring of Federal civilian employees to be applied across the board in the executive branch. As part of this freeze, no vacant positions existing at noon on January 22, 2017, may be filled and no new positions may be created, except in limited circumstances. This order does not include or apply to military personnel.¹

¹ Memorandum from President Donald J. Trump to the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, *Hiring Freeze* (Jan. 23, 2017) (online at www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/23/presidential-memorandum-regarding-hiring-freeze).

The President also directed you, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, to “recommend a long-term plan to reduce the size of the Federal Government’s workforce through attrition.”²

On April 12, 2017, you issued a *Comprehensive Plan for Reforming the Federal Government and Reducing the Federal Civilian Workforce*, stating that “the government-wide hiring freeze is lifted upon issuance of this guidance.”³

However, this plan directed agencies to take “immediate actions to achieve near-term workforce reductions and cost savings.” It also directed them to submit Reorganization Plans by the end of September 2017 as part of their fiscal year 2019 budget submissions to OMB that include “long-term workforce reductions.”⁴

The degradation of the federal workforce—particularly among those who dedicate their lives to protecting our national security, our environmental safety, and our health and wellness—should not occur in darkness.

For these reasons, we request that OMB produce copies of each agency’s reorganization proposal by January 3, 2018. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman

² *Id.*

³ Memorandum from Director Mick Mulvaney, Office of Management and Budget, to Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, *Comprehensive Plan for Reforming the Federal Government and Reducing the Federal Civilian Workforce* (Apr. 12, 2017) (online at www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/memoranda/2017/M-17-22.pdf).

⁴ *Id.*