

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Michael Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Regan:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is conducting oversight of the use of official time by government employees. Certain federal employees are authorized “official time for [collective bargaining] purposes, including attendance at impasse proceeding, during the time the employee otherwise would be in a duty status.”¹ While there is currently no statutory requirement for agencies or the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make official time data automatically available to the public or Congress, this information is important to understand the extent of official time usage, the manner in which it is being used, and the associated costs.

Given that employees’ official union activities can be conducted when they would otherwise be performing their regular job duties, it is critical that agencies track when and how official time is used. This is especially true given that previous agency disclosures of official time data revealed widespread abuse of the practice. A 2018 investigation by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs found “nearly one thousand [federal] employees... spend at least half their working hours as union representatives,” meaning many employees “are being paid for work they were not hired to do without doing work they were hired to do.”²

Official time abuse is particularly striking when employees dedicate all their working hours to union activity. Cases of 100 percent official time use create conditions for federal employees’ skills to atrophy as they forget how to, or otherwise lose the ability to, perform the jobs they were hired to perform.³ This risk exists for any employees whose union activities

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regularly separate them from performing their actual job functions, meaning overuse of official time poses risks for smooth agency operations, efficiency, and quality customer service, among other areas.

Working for the federal government should not mean working primarily for a federal employee union. The American taxpayer expects government employees to do the jobs they are being paid to do, so it stands to reason that the Biden Administration—which has vocally praised the role of unions—should support transparency around the use of official time. Puzzlingly, the Biden Administration has instead gone out of its way to undermine transparency around official time use. Last year, OPM deleted from its website its two most recent time reports in what the agency later claimed was a technical error.⁴ However, it now appears OPM has permanently removed its online disclosures of official time data and has no plans to restore them. In a recent letter to 10 U.S. senators on the issue, OPM stated that it had relocated the official time data on its website to a new webpage.⁵ However, the most recent official time report on OPM’s website comes from FY2019.⁶ In other words, OPM has not posted any official time reports since the Biden Administration began.⁷

The American people deserve to understand how the Biden Administration is tracking official time and whether their tax dollars are being abused to support union activity. Accordingly, the Committee requests the following, as soon as possible but no later than June 20, 2024:

1. The total aggregate number of hours spent on official time by Agency employees for Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023, as well as the overall cost to the Agency of official time use during each of those periods;
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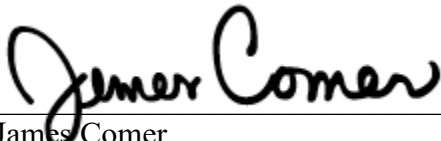
The Honorable Michael Regan

June 6, 2024

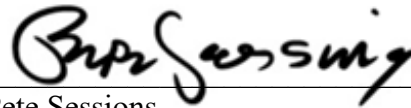
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Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

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June 6, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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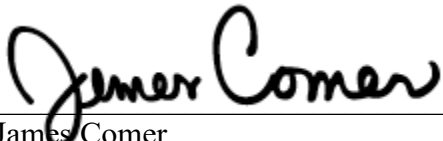
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

June 6, 2024

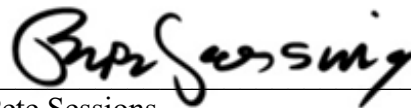
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Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
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June 6, 2024

The Honorable Julie Su
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Acting Secretary Su:

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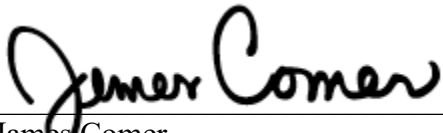
Acting Secretary Julie Su

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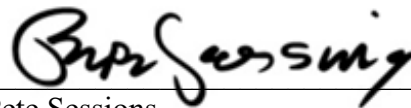
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Scott Perry
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June 6, 2024

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

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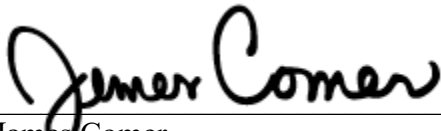
The Honorable Merrick Garland

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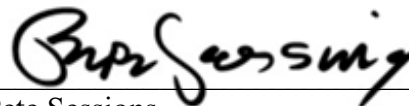
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June 6, 2024

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland:

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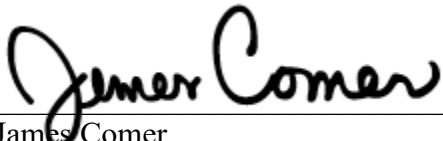
The Honorable Deb Haaland

June 6, 2024

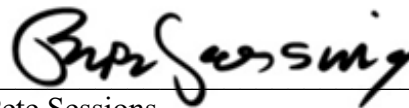
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Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr., Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is conducting oversight of the use of official time by government employees. Certain federal employees are authorized “official time for [collective bargaining] purposes, including attendance at impasse proceeding, during the time the employee otherwise would be in a duty status.”¹ While there is currently no statutory requirement for agencies or the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make official time data automatically available to the public or Congress, this information is important to understand the extent of official time usage, the manner in which it is being used, and the associated costs.

Given that employees’ official union activities can be conducted when they would otherwise be performing their regular job duties, it is critical that agencies track when and how official time is used. This is especially true given that previous agency disclosures of official time data revealed widespread abuse of the practice. A 2018 investigation by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs found “nearly one thousand [federal] employees... spend at least half their working hours as union representatives,” meaning many employees “are being paid for work they were not hired to do without doing work they were hired to do.”²

Official time abuse is particularly striking when employees dedicate all their working hours to union activity. Cases of 100 percent official time use create conditions for federal employees’ skills to atrophy as they forget how to, or otherwise lose the ability to, perform the jobs they were hired to perform.³ This risk exists for any employees whose union activities

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regularly separate them from performing their actual job functions, meaning overuse of official time poses risks for smooth agency operations, efficiency, and quality customer service, among other areas.

Working for the federal government should not mean working primarily for a federal employee union. The American taxpayer expects government employees to do the jobs they are being paid to do, so it stands to reason that the Biden Administration—which has vocally praised the role of unions—should support transparency around the use of official time. Puzzlingly, the Biden Administration has instead gone out of its way to undermine transparency around official time use. Last year, OPM deleted from its website its two most recent time reports in what the agency later claimed was a technical error.⁴ However, it now appears OPM has permanently removed its online disclosures of official time data and has no plans to restore them. In a recent letter to 10 U.S. senators on the issue, OPM stated that it had relocated the official time data on its website to a new webpage.⁵ However, the most recent official time report on OPM’s website comes from FY2019.⁶ In other words, OPM has not posted any official time reports since the Biden Administration began.⁷

The American people deserve to understand how the Biden Administration is tracking official time and whether their tax dollars are being abused to support union activity. Accordingly, the Committee requests the following, as soon as possible but no later than June 20, 2024:

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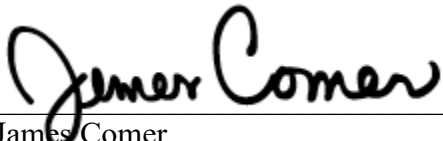
The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas

June 6, 2024

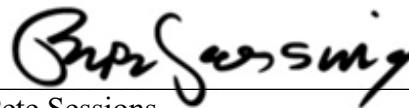
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Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

Congress of the United States

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Adrienne Todman
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Acting Secretary Todman:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is conducting oversight of the use of official time by government employees. Certain federal employees are authorized “official time for [collective bargaining] purposes, including attendance at impasse proceeding, during the time the employee otherwise would be in a duty status.”¹ While there is currently no statutory requirement for agencies or the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make official time data automatically available to the public or Congress, this information is important to understand the extent of official time usage, the manner in which it is being used, and the associated costs.

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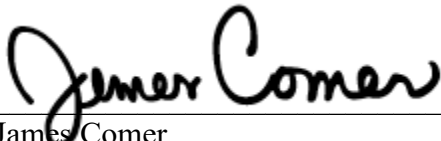
The Honorable Adrienne Todman

June 6, 2024

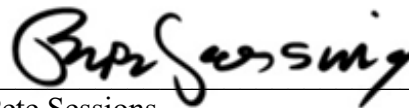
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Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

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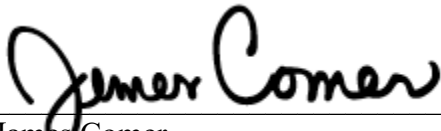
The Honorable Gina Raimondo

June 6, 2024

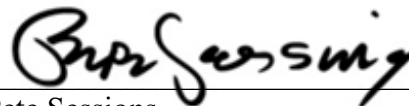
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Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is conducting oversight of the use of official time by government employees. Certain federal employees are authorized “official time for [collective bargaining] purposes, including attendance at impasse proceeding, during the time the employee otherwise would be in a duty status.”¹ While there is currently no statutory requirement for agencies or the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make official time data automatically available to the public or Congress, this information is important to understand the extent of official time usage, the manner in which it is being used, and the associated costs.

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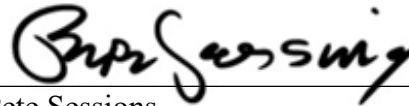
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Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
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Scott Perry
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cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
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June 6, 2024

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm:

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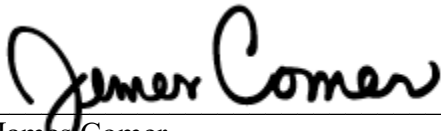
The Honorable Jennifer Granholm

June 6, 2024

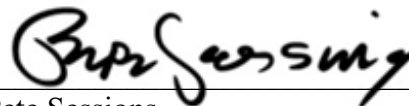
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Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Miguel Cardona
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is conducting oversight of the use of official time by government employees. Certain federal employees are authorized “official time for [collective bargaining] purposes, including attendance at impasse proceeding, during the time the employee otherwise would be in a duty status.”¹ While there is currently no statutory requirement for agencies or the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make official time data automatically available to the public or Congress, this information is important to understand the extent of official time usage, the manner in which it is being used, and the associated costs.

Given that employees’ official union activities can be conducted when they would otherwise be performing their regular job duties, it is critical that agencies track when and how official time is used. This is especially true given that previous agency disclosures of official time data revealed widespread abuse of the practice. A 2018 investigation by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs found “nearly one thousand [federal] employees... spend at least half their working hours as union representatives,” meaning many employees “are being paid for work they were not hired to do without doing work they were hired to do.”²

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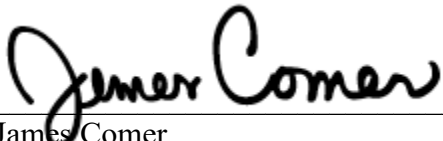
The Honorable Miguel Cardona

June 6, 2024

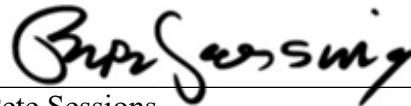
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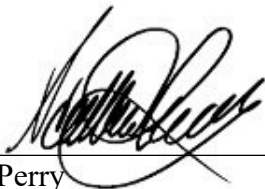
Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20451

Dear Secretary Blinken:

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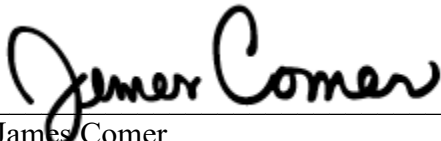
The Honorable Antony Blinken

June 6, 2024

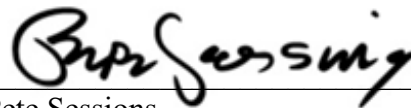
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Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Lloyd Austin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Austin:

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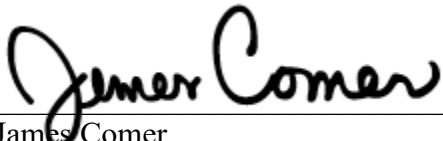
The Honorable Lloyd Austin

June 6, 2024

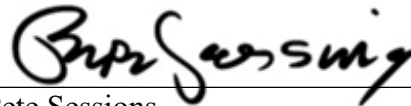
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Chairman
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Pete Sessions
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Scott Perry
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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
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<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Commissioner
U.S. Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Commissioner O'Malley:

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⁵ Casey Harper, "Biden administration defends decision to nix union accountability effort," THE CENTER SQUARE (Mar. 26, 2024), https://www.thecentersquare.com/national/article_631e7136-eba5-11ee-9860-e788f95da876.html.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

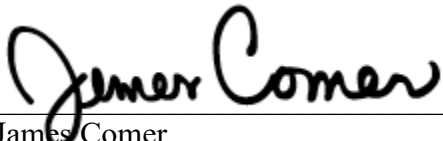
The Honorable Martin O'Malley

June 6, 2024

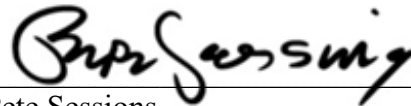
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To make arrangements to deliver documents or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority Staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Isabel Casillas Guzman
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is conducting oversight of the use of official time by government employees. Certain federal employees are authorized “official time for [collective bargaining] purposes, including attendance at impasse proceeding, during the time the employee otherwise would be in a duty status.”¹ While there is currently no statutory requirement for agencies or the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make official time data automatically available to the public or Congress, this information is important to understand the extent of official time usage, the manner in which it is being used, and the associated costs.

Given that employees’ official union activities can be conducted when they would otherwise be performing their regular job duties, it is critical that agencies track when and how official time is used. This is especially true given that previous agency disclosures of official time data revealed widespread abuse of the practice. A 2018 investigation by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs found “nearly one thousand [federal] employees... spend at least half their working hours as union representatives,” meaning many employees “are being paid for work they were not hired to do without doing work they were hired to do.”²

Official time abuse is particularly striking when employees dedicate all their working hours to union activity. Cases of 100 percent official time use create conditions for federal employees’ skills to atrophy as they forget how to, or otherwise lose the ability to, perform the jobs they were hired to perform.³ This risk exists for any employees whose union activities

¹ 5 U.S.C. § 7131(a).

² Majority Staff Memorandum to Chairman Meadows, “Federal Labor Union Use of Official Time in Fiscal Year 2017,” United State House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (May 24, 2018), <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/GO/GO24/20180524/108379/HHRG-115-GO24-20180524-SD001.pdf#page=4>.

³ Nicole Ogrysko, “SSA tells union to leave by month’s end, details new official time cuts,” FEDERAL NEWS NETWORK (Jul. 10, 2018), <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/unions/2018/07/ssa-tells-union-to-leave-by-months-end-details-new-official-time-cuts/> (quoting a retiring 100% official time SSA employee who had forgotten how to do the job he was hired to do and stated he would need to be retrained if he were to return to his actual job).

regularly separate them from performing their actual job functions, meaning overuse of official time poses risks for smooth agency operations, efficiency, and quality customer service, among other areas.

Working for the federal government should not mean working primarily for a federal employee union. The American taxpayer expects government employees to do the jobs they are being paid to do, so it stands to reason that the Biden Administration—which has vocally praised the role of unions—should support transparency around the use of official time. Puzzlingly, the Biden Administration has instead gone out of its way to undermine transparency around official time use. Last year, OPM deleted from its website its two most recent time reports in what the agency later claimed was a technical error.⁴ However, it now appears OPM has permanently removed its online disclosures of official time data and has no plans to restore them. In a recent letter to 10 U.S. senators on the issue, OPM stated that it had relocated the official time data on its website to a new webpage.⁵ However, the most recent official time report on OPM’s website comes from FY2019.⁶ In other words, OPM has not posted any official time reports since the Biden Administration began.⁷

The American people deserve to understand how the Biden Administration is tracking official time and whether their tax dollars are being abused to support union activity. Accordingly, the Committee requests the following, as soon as possible but no later than June 20, 2024:

1. The total aggregate number of hours spent on official time by Small Business Administration (SBA) employees for Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023, as well as the overall cost to the Administration of official time use during each of those periods;
2. The total number of SBA employees who used official time, in any amount, during Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023;
3. For those SBA employees who used official time during Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023, the total number who used 100% official time. Additionally, please provide a breakdown describing how many employees utilized official time during each of those periods in the following amounts: 99-75% of total work hours; 74-50% of total work hours; 49-25% of total work hours; and less than 25% of total work hours;
4. The salaries of all SBA employees using 100% official time.

⁴ Thomas Catenacci, “Biden admin scrubs webpage showing how Taxpayers Fund Union Activities,” FOX NEWS (Nov. 21, 2023), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/white-house-scrubs-webpage-showing-taxpayers-fund-union-activities>.

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⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

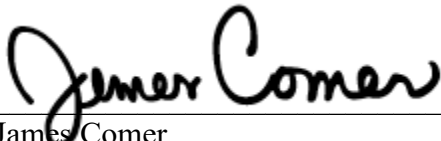
The Honorable Isabel Casillas Guzman

June 6, 2024

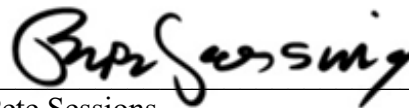
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Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Christopher Hanson
Chair
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Chair Hanson:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is conducting oversight of the use of official time by government employees. Certain federal employees are authorized “official time for [collective bargaining] purposes, including attendance at impasse proceeding, during the time the employee otherwise would be in a duty status.”¹ While there is currently no statutory requirement for agencies or the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make official time data automatically available to the public or Congress, this information is important to understand the extent of official time usage, the manner in which it is being used, and the associated costs.

Given that employees’ official union activities can be conducted when they would otherwise be performing their regular job duties, it is critical that agencies track when and how official time is used. This is especially true given that previous agency disclosures of official time data revealed widespread abuse of the practice. A 2018 investigation by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs found “nearly one thousand [federal] employees... spend at least half their working hours as union representatives,” meaning many employees “are being paid for work they were not hired to do without doing work they were hired to do.”²

Official time abuse is particularly striking when employees dedicate all their working hours to union activity. Cases of 100 percent official time use create conditions for federal employees’ skills to atrophy as they forget how to, or otherwise lose the ability to, perform the jobs they were hired to perform.³ This risk exists for any employees whose union activities

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regularly separate them from performing their actual job functions, meaning overuse of official time poses risks for smooth agency operations, efficiency, and quality customer service, among other areas.

Working for the federal government should not mean working primarily for a federal employee union. The American taxpayer expects government employees to do the jobs they are being paid to do, so it stands to reason that the Biden Administration—which has vocally praised the role of unions—should support transparency around the use of official time. Puzzlingly, the Biden Administration has instead gone out of its way to undermine transparency around official time use. Last year, OPM deleted from its website its two most recent time reports in what the agency later claimed was a technical error.⁴ However, it now appears OPM has permanently removed its online disclosures of official time data and has no plans to restore them. In a recent letter to 10 U.S. senators on the issue, OPM stated that it had relocated the official time data on its website to a new webpage.⁵ However, the most recent official time report on OPM’s website comes from FY2019.⁶ In other words, OPM has not posted any official time reports since the Biden Administration began.⁷

The American people deserve to understand how the Biden Administration is tracking official time and whether their tax dollars are being abused to support union activity. Accordingly, the Committee requests the following, as soon as possible but no later than June 20, 2024:

1. The total aggregate number of hours spent on official time by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) employees for Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023, as well as the overall cost to the Commission of official time use during each of those periods;
2. The total number of NRC employees who used official time, in any amount, during Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023;
3. For those NRC employees who used official time during Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023, the total number who used 100% official time. Additionally, please provide a breakdown describing how many employees utilized official time during each of those periods in the following amounts: 99-75% of total work hours; 74-50% of total work hours; 49-25% of total work hours; and less than 25% of total work hours;
4. The salaries of all NRC employees using 100% official time.

⁴ Thomas Catenacci, “Biden admin scrubs webpage showing how Taxpayers Fund Union Activities,” FOX NEWS (Nov. 21, 2023), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/white-house-scrubs-webpage-showing-taxpayers-fund-union-activities>.

⁵ Casey Harper, “Biden administration defends decision to nix union accountability effort,” THE CENTER SQUARE (Mar. 26, 2024), https://www.thecentersquare.com/national/article_631e7136-eba5-11ee-9860-e788f95da876.html.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

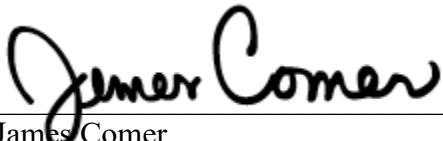
The Honorable Christopher Hanson

June 6, 2024

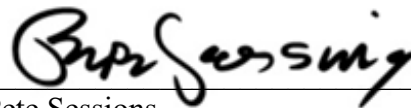
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Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Sethuraman Panchanathan
Director
U.S. National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Director Panchanathan:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is conducting oversight of the use of official time by government employees. Certain federal employees are authorized “official time for [collective bargaining] purposes, including attendance at impasse proceeding, during the time the employee otherwise would be in a duty status.”¹ While there is currently no statutory requirement for agencies or the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make official time data automatically available to the public or Congress, this information is important to understand the extent of official time usage, the manner in which it is being used, and the associated costs.

Given that employees’ official union activities can be conducted when they would otherwise be performing their regular job duties, it is critical that agencies track when and how official time is used. This is especially true given that previous agency disclosures of official time data revealed widespread abuse of the practice. A 2018 investigation by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs found “nearly one thousand [federal] employees... spend at least half their working hours as union representatives,” meaning many employees “are being paid for work they were not hired to do without doing work they were hired to do.”²

Official time abuse is particularly striking when employees dedicate all their working hours to union activity. Cases of 100 percent official time use create conditions for federal employees’ skills to atrophy as they forget how to, or otherwise lose the ability to, perform the jobs they were hired to perform.³ This risk exists for any employees whose union activities

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³ Nicole Ogrysko, “SSA tells union to leave by month’s end, details new official time cuts,” FEDERAL NEWS NETWORK (Jul. 10, 2018), <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/unions/2018/07/ssa-tells-union-to-leave-by-months-end-details-new-official-time-cuts/> (quoting a retiring 100% official time SSA employee who had forgotten how to do the job he was hired to do and stated he would need to be retrained if he were to return to his actual job).

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Working for the federal government should not mean working primarily for a federal employee union. The American taxpayer expects government employees to do the jobs they are being paid to do, so it stands to reason that the Biden Administration—which has vocally praised the role of unions—should support transparency around the use of official time. Puzzlingly, the Biden Administration has instead gone out of its way to undermine transparency around official time use. Last year, OPM deleted from its website its two most recent time reports in what the agency later claimed was a technical error.⁴ However, it now appears OPM has permanently removed its online disclosures of official time data and has no plans to restore them. In a recent letter to 10 U.S. senators on the issue, OPM stated that it had relocated the official time data on its website to a new webpage.⁵ However, the most recent official time report on OPM’s website comes from FY2019.⁶ In other words, OPM has not posted any official time reports since the Biden Administration began.⁷

The American people deserve to understand how the Biden Administration is tracking official time and whether their tax dollars are being abused to support union activity. Accordingly, the Committee requests the following, as soon as possible but no later than June 20, 2024:

1. The total aggregate number of hours spent on official time by National Science Foundation (NSF) employees for Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023, as well as the overall cost to the Foundation of official time use during each of those periods;
2. The total number of NSF employees who used official time, in any amount, during Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023;
3. For those NSF employees who used official time during Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023, the total number who used 100% official time. Additionally, please provide a breakdown describing how many employees utilized official time during each of those periods in the following amounts: 99-75% of total work hours; 74-50% of total work hours; 49-25% of total work hours; and less than 25% of total work hours;
4. The salaries of all NSF employees using 100% official time.

⁴ Thomas Catenacci, “Biden admin scrubs webpage showing how Taxpayers Fund Union Activities,” FOX NEWS (Nov. 21, 2023), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/white-house-scrubs-webpage-showing-taxpayers-fund-union-activities>.

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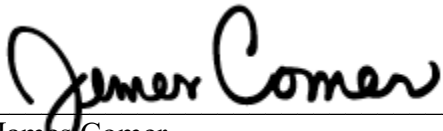
The Honorable Sethuraman Panchanathan

June 6, 2024

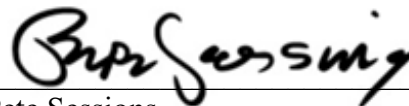
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Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Administrator
The National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Administrator Nelson:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is conducting oversight of the use of official time by government employees. Certain federal employees are authorized “official time for [collective bargaining] purposes, including attendance at impasse proceeding, during the time the employee otherwise would be in a duty status.”¹ While there is currently no statutory requirement for agencies or the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make official time data automatically available to the public or Congress, this information is important to understand the extent of official time usage, the manner in which it is being used, and the associated costs.

Given that employees’ official union activities can be conducted when they would otherwise be performing their regular job duties, it is critical that agencies track when and how official time is used. This is especially true given that previous agency disclosures of official time data revealed widespread abuse of the practice. A 2018 investigation by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs found “nearly one thousand [federal] employees... spend at least half their working hours as union representatives,” meaning many employees “are being paid for work they were not hired to do without doing work they were hired to do.”²

Official time abuse is particularly striking when employees dedicate all their working hours to union activity. Cases of 100 percent official time use create conditions for federal employees’ skills to atrophy as they forget how to, or otherwise lose the ability to, perform the jobs they were hired to perform.³ This risk exists for any employees whose union activities

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Working for the federal government should not mean working primarily for a federal employee union. The American taxpayer expects government employees to do the jobs they are being paid to do, so it stands to reason that the Biden Administration—which has vocally praised the role of unions—should support transparency around the use of official time. Puzzlingly, the Biden Administration has instead gone out of its way to undermine transparency around official time use. Last year, OPM deleted from its website its two most recent time reports in what the agency later claimed was a technical error.⁴ However, it now appears OPM has permanently removed its online disclosures of official time data and has no plans to restore them. In a recent letter to 10 U.S. senators on the issue, OPM stated that it had relocated the official time data on its website to a new webpage.⁵ However, the most recent official time report on OPM’s website comes from FY2019.⁶ In other words, OPM has not posted any official time reports since the Biden Administration began.⁷

The American people deserve to understand how the Biden Administration is tracking official time and whether their tax dollars are being abused to support union activity. Accordingly, the Committee requests the following, as soon as possible but no later than June 20, 2024:

1. The total aggregate number of hours spent on official time by Agency employees for Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023, as well as the overall cost to the Agency of official time use during each of those periods;
2. The total number of Agency employees who used official time, in any amount, during Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023;
3. For those Agency employees who used official time during Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023, the total number who used 100% official time. Additionally, please provide a breakdown describing how many employees utilized official time during each of those periods in the following amounts: 99-75% of total work hours; 74-50% of total work hours; 49-25% of total work hours; and less than 25% of total work hours;
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⁴ Thomas Catenacci, “Biden admin scrubs webpage showing how Taxpayers Fund Union Activities,” FOX NEWS (Nov. 21, 2023), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/white-house-scrubs-webpage-showing-taxpayers-fund-union-activities>.

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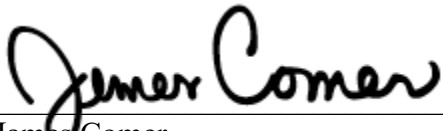
The Honorable Bill Nelson

June 6, 2024

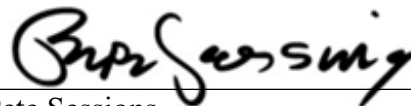
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Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Denis McDonough
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is conducting oversight of the use of official time by government employees. Certain federal employees are authorized “official time for [collective bargaining] purposes, including attendance at impasse proceeding, during the time the employee otherwise would be in a duty status.”¹ While there is currently no statutory requirement for agencies or the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make official time data automatically available to the public or Congress, this information is important to understand the extent of official time usage, the manner in which it is being used, and the associated costs.

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Official time abuse is particularly striking when employees dedicate all their working hours to union activity. Cases of 100 percent official time use create conditions for federal employees’ skills to atrophy as they forget how to, or otherwise lose the ability to, perform the jobs they were hired to perform.³ This risk exists for any employees whose union activities

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Working for the federal government should not mean working primarily for a federal employee union. The American taxpayer expects government employees to do the jobs they are being paid to do, so it stands to reason that the Biden Administration—which has vocally praised the role of unions—should support transparency around the use of official time. Puzzlingly, the Biden Administration has instead gone out of its way to undermine transparency around official time use. Last year, OPM deleted from its website its two most recent time reports in what the agency later claimed was a technical error.⁴ However, it now appears OPM has permanently removed its online disclosures of official time data and has no plans to restore them. In a recent letter to 10 U.S. senators on the issue, OPM stated that it had relocated the official time data on its website to a new webpage.⁵ However, the most recent official time report on OPM’s website comes from FY2019.⁶ In other words, OPM has not posted any official time reports since the Biden Administration began.⁷

The American people deserve to understand how the Biden Administration is tracking official time and whether their tax dollars are being abused to support union activity. Accordingly, the Committee requests the following, as soon as possible but no later than June 20, 2024:

1. The total aggregate number of hours spent on official time by Department employees for Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023, as well as the overall cost to the Department of official time use during each of those periods;
2. The total number of Department employees who used official time, in any amount, during Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023;
3. For those Department employees who used official time during Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023, the total number who used 100% official time. Additionally, please provide a breakdown describing how many employees utilized official time during each of those periods in the following amounts: 99-75% of total work hours; 74-50% of total work hours; 49-25% of total work hours; and less than 25% of total work hours;
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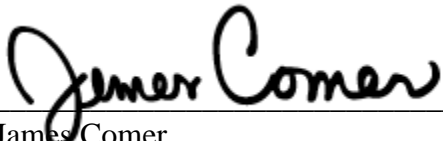
The Honorable Denis McDonough

June 6, 2024

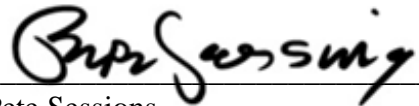
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To make arrangements to deliver documents or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority Staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is conducting oversight of the use of official time by government employees. Certain federal employees are authorized “official time for [collective bargaining] purposes, including attendance at impasse proceeding, during the time the employee otherwise would be in a duty status.”¹ While there is currently no statutory requirement for agencies or the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make official time data automatically available to the public or Congress, this information is important to understand the extent of official time usage, the manner in which it is being used, and the associated costs.

Given that employees’ official union activities can be conducted when they would otherwise be performing their regular job duties, it is critical that agencies track when and how official time is used. This is especially true given that previous agency disclosures of official time data revealed widespread abuse of the practice. A 2018 investigation by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs found “nearly one thousand [federal] employees... spend at least half their working hours as union representatives,” meaning many employees “are being paid for work they were not hired to do without doing work they were hired to do.”²

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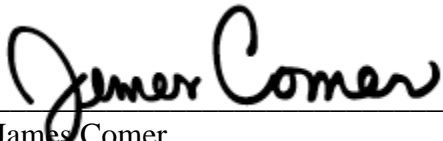
The Honorable Thomas Vilsack

June 6, 2024

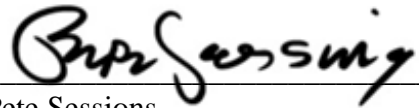
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Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Samantha Power
Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Power:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is conducting oversight of the use of official time by government employees. Certain federal employees are authorized “official time for [collective bargaining] purposes, including attendance at impasse proceeding, during the time the employee otherwise would be in a duty status.”¹ While there is currently no statutory requirement for agencies or the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make official time data automatically available to the public or Congress, this information is important to understand the extent of official time usage, the manner in which it is being used, and the associated costs.

Given that employees’ official union activities can be conducted when they would otherwise be performing their regular job duties, it is critical that agencies track when and how official time is used. This is especially true given that previous agency disclosures of official time data revealed widespread abuse of the practice. A 2018 investigation by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs found “nearly one thousand [federal] employees... spend at least half their working hours as union representatives,” meaning many employees “are being paid for work they were not hired to do without doing work they were hired to do.”²

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1. The total aggregate number of hours spent on official time by Agency employees for Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023, as well as the overall cost to the Agency of official time use during each of those periods;
2. The total number of Agency employees who used official time, in any amount, during Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023;
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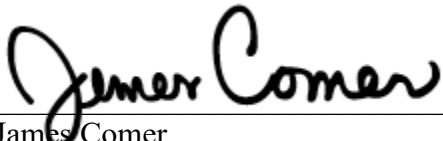
The Honorable Samantha Power

June 6, 2024

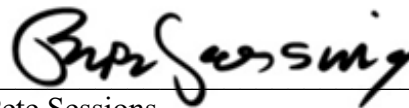
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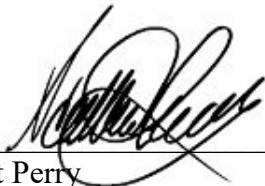
Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Robin Carnahan
Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Administrator Carnahan:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is conducting oversight of the use of official time by government employees. Certain federal employees are authorized “official time for [collective bargaining] purposes, including attendance at impasse proceeding, during the time the employee otherwise would be in a duty status.”¹ While there is currently no statutory requirement for agencies or the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make official time data automatically available to the public or Congress, this information is important to understand the extent of official time usage, the manner in which it is being used, and the associated costs.

Given that employees’ official union activities can be conducted when they would otherwise be performing their regular job duties, it is critical that agencies track when and how official time is used. This is especially true given that previous agency disclosures of official time data revealed widespread abuse of the practice. A 2018 investigation by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs found “nearly one thousand [federal] employees... spend at least half their working hours as union representatives,” meaning many employees “are being paid for work they were not hired to do without doing work they were hired to do.”²

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The American people deserve to understand how the Biden Administration is tracking official time and whether their tax dollars are being abused to support union activity. Accordingly, the Committee requests the following, as soon as possible but no later than June 20, 2024:

1. The total aggregate number of hours spent on official time by General Services Administration (GSA) employees for Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023, as well as the overall cost to the Administration of official time use during each of those periods;
2. The total number of GSA employees who used official time, in any amount, during Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023;
3. For those GSA employees who used official time during Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023, the total number who used 100% official time. Additionally, please provide a breakdown describing how many employees utilized official time during each of those periods in the following amounts: 99-75% of total work hours; 74-50% of total work hours; 49-25% of total work hours; and less than 25% of total work hours;
4. The salaries of all GSA employees using 100% official time.

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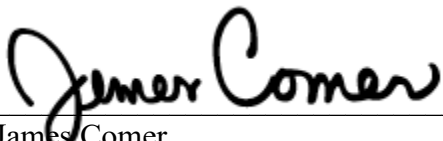
The Honorable Robin Carnahan

June 6, 2024

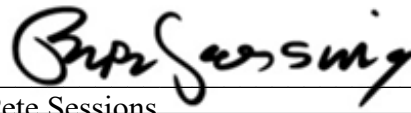
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James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
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The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is conducting oversight of the use of official time by government employees. Certain federal employees are authorized “official time for [collective bargaining] purposes, including attendance at impasse proceeding, during the time the employee otherwise would be in a duty status.”¹ While there is currently no statutory requirement for agencies or the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make official time data automatically available to the public or Congress, this information is important to understand the extent of official time usage, the manner in which it is being used, and the associated costs.

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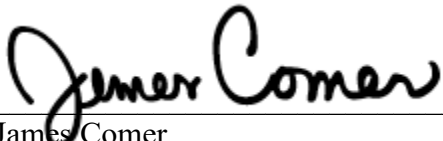
The Honorable Janet Yellen

June 6, 2024

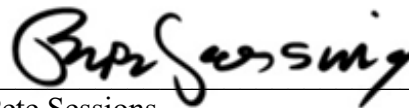
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To make arrangements to deliver documents or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority Staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Pete Sessions
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
and the Federal Workforce



Scott Perry
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce