

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We write to express our profound concern with the Department of Homeland Security's recent creation of a "Disinformation Governance Board".¹ In testimony before Congress, you stated that the Board's purpose would be to "combat disinformation" ahead of the November midterms.² According to media reports, as executive director of the Board, the Administration has chosen Nina Jankowicz, formerly a "disinformation fellow" at the Wilson Center.³

Given the complete lack of information about this new initiative and the potential serious consequences of a government entity identifying and responding to "disinformation," we have serious concerns about the activities of this new Board, particularly under Ms. Jankowicz's leadership. Among other things, she stated publicly that the Hunter Biden laptop should be "view[ed] as a Trump campaign product."⁴ Following Elon Musk's recent purchase of Twitter, Ms. Jankowicz tweeted: "I shudder to think about if free speech absolutists were taking over more platforms."⁵

To further our investigation of this matter and in preparation of Fiscal Year 2023 funding decisions, we request that you provide the following information:

¹ See, e.g., Katelyn Caralle, "Biden sets up 'Disinformation Board' headed by Russia expert who called Hunter's laptop a 'Trump campaign product' and said she 'shudders to think' about Elon Musk taking over Twitter," Daily Mail, Apr. 27, 2022, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10760907/Biden-starts-Disinformation-Board-led-Russia-expert-called-Hunters-laptop-Trump-product.html>.

² Bradford Betz, "Mayorkas testifies DHS is creating 'Disinformation Governance Board'," Fox News, April 27, 2022, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/mayorkas-dhs-disinformation-governance-board>.

³ Wilson Center, <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/person/nina-jankowicz>.

⁴ "Explainer: Trump seizes on dubious Hunter Biden-Ukraine story," N.Y. Daily News, Oct. 15, 2020, <https://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/us-elections-government/ny-election-2020-biden-20201015-7xixsgtexpfnjgjjv62ryiyism-story.html>.

⁵ <https://twitter.com/wiczipedia/status/1518643449225953287>.

1. All documents and communications in your agency's possession referring or relating to the creation of the Disinformation Governance Board, including any assessment of the need for such an entity.
2. All documents and communications in your agency's possession referring or relating to the use of Intelligence Community resources for the creation or activities of the Disinformation Governance Board, or activities related to its mission.
3. All documents and communications in your agency's possession referring or relating to the appointment of Nina Jankowicz as Executive Director of the Disinformation Governance Board.

Please provide this information as soon as possible, but **no later than May 13, 2022**. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Ranking Member
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence



John Katko
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security

cc: The Honorable Avril Haines, Director of National Intelligence