



Whistleblower Report: Trump Administration Put Americans' Private Social Security Data at Risk

This is the moment Democrats have feared and warned of: a <u>credible</u> <u>whistleblower report</u> alleging the Trump Administration has recklessly put at risk Americans' personal Social Security data. According to the whistleblower, the Trump Administration has copied highly sensitive Social Security data on over 300 million people from secure federal databases into a vulnerable cloud environment. This alarming allegation makes clear that all semblance of oversight and accountability by the Trump Administration is gone.

As President Trump continues his march toward authoritarianism, every American should be concerned with the protection and use of their private data housed throughout the federal government. **Democrats are sounding the alarm and fighting for safeguards, protections, and answers for the American people**.

What has the whistleblower alleged?

The Chief Data Officer, Charles Borges, at the Social Security Administration (SSA) has <u>filed a whistleblower complaint</u> alleging that in June, DOGE members uploaded a copy of a database with records of all Social Security number (SSN) holders to a vulnerable cloud server, putting the personal data of over 300 million Americans at risk of being leaked or hacked. The data in question includes names, places and dates of birth, citizenship, race and ethnicity, parents' names and SSNs, phone numbers, addresses, and other highly sensitive information. According to the whistleblower:

- "Should bad actors gain access to this cloud environment,
 Americans may be susceptible to widespread identity theft, may
 lose vital healthcare and food benefits, and the government may
 be responsible for re-issuing every American a new Social Security
 Number at great cost."
- The wrongdoing includes "apparent systemic data security violations, uninhibited administrative access to highly sensitive production environments,² and potential violations of internal SSA security protocols and federal privacy laws ..."

• "These actions constitute violations of laws, rules, and regulations, abuse of authority, gross mismanagement, and creation of a substantial and specific threat to public health and safety."

Democrats are fighting to safeguard Americans' Social Security data.

Democrats have been fighting to protect all Americans from having their sensitive personal Social Security information politicized or bought and sold to the highest bidder, or their SSA benefits put at risk.

- At Ways and Means Ranking Member Neal's <u>request</u>, GAO is investigating DOGE's access to the public's confidential information, including at SSA.
- Ways and Means Democrats have <u>demanded answers</u> about DOGE's alarming access to SSA data, introducing Resolutions of Inquiry to compel the release of information about DOGE's <u>probes into SSA</u> and its <u>access to Americans' confidential Social Security data</u> (H. Res. <u>195</u>; H. Res. <u>314</u>)
- Social Security Subcommittee Ranking Member Larson <u>called for a hearing</u> to investigate DOGE developments at SSA, and <u>demanded Elon Musk appear</u> before the Ways and Means Committee.
- Ranking Member Larson and House Democrats introduced the <u>Protecting Americans' Social Security Data Act</u> (H.R. 1877) to block political appointees, like Elon Musk and his DOGE, from accessing sensitive data systems at SSA.

Will Republicans abandon their duty to the protect the public?

House Republican leaders who received the whistleblower's report have, so far, <u>declined to comment</u> – a wall of silence consistent with their practice of closing ranks around President Trump. Democrats have called upon Chairman Smith to investigate DOGE's actions next week, and with the same fervor he did to the whistleblowers that came forward last Congress.

Despite <u>Democratic requests</u>, Ways and Means Republicans have failed to call Elon Musk to testify about his work at SSA and the IRS, and in March <u>voted down</u> Democrats' ROI seeking information on DOGE's access to American's sensitive Social Security data. At the markup, Republican Chair Jason Smith (R-MO) <u>praised the Trump Administration's</u> leadership at SSA for its transparency and commitment to abide by court orders and the law; said of DOGE's activities at the IRS, "<u>This is not a case of DOGE employees running wild</u>."; and accused Democrats of fearmongering. He doubled-down at an SSA hearing in June, stating "...<u>DOGE hasn't had improper access to sensitive senior information</u>."