

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2024

The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman:

The House Committee on Small Business and the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship (the Committees) are continuing to investigate the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) activities involving voter registration and political travel. The Committees' attention was drawn to this matter after the SBA's March 19, 2024, announcement that it had entered into a new voter registration Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Michigan Department of State implementing President Biden's March 2021 Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting (E.O. 14019).¹

On April 17, 2024, a video recording was made public with SBA Special Advisor Tyler Robinson alleging that you are the most traveled member of the President's cabinet and participate in trips to indirectly campaign for the President. The House and Senate Committees immediately began reviewing the SBA's press releases to assess the accuracy of these statements. A preliminary review of the releases appeared to corroborate details Mr. Robinson alleged in the video. Specifically, these press releases indicated that you have traveled to critical battleground states for the upcoming election, including Michigan, and invited Democrat members of Congress on these trips nearly eight times more frequently than Republican members. On April 24, 2024, the Senate Committee sent a letter requesting your calendar, records of your travel, and White House communications.² To date, you have failed to respond.

On May 3, 2024, the SBA briefed the House Committee on matters relating to this investigation. When asked about where the Committee can find information about these trips, the SBA simply directed the Committee to the Administrator's Twitter account. Further, when asked about where small businesses can go on their website to find events with SBA officials, the SBA failed to provide a clear answer. In addition, the Committees noticed an increase in similar trips to battleground states by Deputy Administrator Dilawar Syed.

The Committees are troubled by the SBA's lack of transparency regarding where the Administrator goes, who attends trips with her, and the purpose of these trips. The only apparent reason for suspending these press releases is to obstruct the Committees' investigations, and

¹ Joseph R. Biden, Exec. Order 14019, Promoting Access to Voting, Mar. 7, 2021, 86 Fed. Reg. 13623; Press Release, U.S. Small Bus. Admin., SBA Administrator Guzman Announces Agency's First-Ever Voter Registration Agreement with Michigan Department of State (Mar. 19, 2024).

² Press Release, Joni Ernst, Following Shocking Video, Ernst Demands Transparency at SBA (Apr. 24, 2024).

The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman

May 16, 2024

Page 2 of 3

evade accountability from American taxpayers, the people who fund these trips. Therefore, we formally request the following documents as soon as possible but no later than May 30, 2024:

1. The calendar for the following individuals from June 1, 2022, through December 2024:
 - a. Isabella Casillas Guzman
 - b. Dilawar Syed
 - c. Arthur Plews
 - d. Jennifer Kim
 - e. Victor Parker
 - f. Destine Hicks
 - g. Geri Sanchez Aglipay
 - h. Laketa Henderson
 - i. Julie Verratti (up until she departed SBA)
 - j. Scott Harriford (up until he departed SBA)
 - k. The SBA individual appointed as the Michigan National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA).

2. All travel itineraries for trips the following individuals have taken, and are currently scheduled to take in the future, including where, when, and with whom, from March 1, 2024, through the end of the year:
 - a. Isabella Casillas Guzman
 - b. Dilawar Syed
 - c. Arthur Plews
 - d. Jennifer Kim
 - e. Victor Parker
 - f. Destine Hicks
 - g. Geri Sanchez Aglipay
 - h. Laketa Henderson
 - i. Julie Verratti (up until she departed SBA)
 - j. Scott Harriford (up until he departed SBA)
 - k. The SBA individual appointed as the Michigan NVRA

3. All trip summaries and/or related documents memorializing reimbursement for costs associated with political activities under the Hatch Act, including all reimbursement statements, for all trips encompassed in request 1 and 2 of this letter.

4. All existing transcripts of remarks made by SBA personnel on trips encompassed in request 1 and 2 of this letter.

The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman

May 16, 2024

Page 3 of 3

To schedule the delivery of responsive documents or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact the House Committee Majority Staff at (202) 225-5821 or the Senate Committee Minority Staff at (202) 224-5175. The House Committee on Small Business has broad authority to investigate “problems of all types of small business” under House Rule X. The Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship has broad authority to investigate “all problems of American small business enterprises” under Rule XXV(1) of the Standing Rules of the Senate. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.



Roger Williams
Chairman
House Committee on Small Business



Joni K. Ernst
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship

cc: The Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez, Ranking Member
House Committee on Small Business

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen, Chair
Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship