

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

August 14, 2025

The Honorable William M. Blier
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Inspector General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Acting Inspector General Blier:

I write to request you investigate the arbitrary removals, forced retirements, and reassignments of senior Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) executives, special agents in charge, and other supervisory agents and the impact these decisions have had on the Bureau's national security and law enforcement operations, as well as the disparate impact on personnel who are women or persons of color.

As I have noted in previous letters to the Department of Justice and FBI,¹ I believe these short-sighted and politically motivated personnel decisions have significantly destabilized the Bureau, harmed our public safety apparatus, and made Americans less safe. The Director's commitment to the Committee—that “all FBI employees will be protected against political retribution”—has proven to be a wholly empty promise.² After an initial and well-documented review and retaliation against staff connected to investigations related to the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol or related to President Trump and his allies,³ the arbitrary purge of FBI personnel has continued unabated. It was reported as recently as last week that the Assistant Director of the Critical Incident Response Group and other senior officials not eligible for retirement, including the Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of Las Vegas, were fired or reassigned.⁴

¹ See e.g., Letter from Senator Durbin et al. to Acting Attorney General McHenry & Acting FBI Director Driscoll (Feb. 3, 2025); Letter from Senator Durbin et al. to Attorney General Bondi (Mar. 3, 2025); Letter from Senator Durbin et al. to Attorney General Bondi (Mar. 28, 2025); and Letter from Senator Durbin to Secretary Noem & FBI Director Patel (April 8, 2025).

² *Nomination of Kashyap Patel to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation*, S. Comm. on the Judiciary, 119th Cong. (Jan. 30, 2025).

³ See e.g., Pat Milton, Robert Legare, & Andres Triay, *FBI Executives Ousted and Personnel Under Internal Review as Trump DOJ Fires Jan. 6 Capitol Riot Prosecutors*, CBS NEWS (Jan. 31, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fbi-agents-on-jan-6-capitol-riot-trump-investigations-to-be-fired-sources-say/>; Josh Gerstein & Kyle Cheney, *FBI Braces for Potential Purge of Those Deemed Disloyal to Trump*, POLITICO (Feb. 2, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/02/fbi-agents-officials-jan-6-cases-011048>; and Josh Campbell et al., *FBI Turns Over Details of 5,000 Employees who Worked on January 6 Cases to Trump Justice Department, as Agents Sue*, CNN (Feb. 4, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/04/politics/fbi-employees-tuesday>.

⁴ See Adam Goldman et al., *Trump Administration Continues Purge of F.B.I. Officials*, N.Y. TIMES (Aug. 7, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/07/us/politics/trump-fbi.html>; David Charns, *FBI Fires Former Las Vegas Office Head, Attorney Says*, 8 NEWS NOW (Aug. 8, 2025), <https://www.8newsnow.com/news/local-news/fbi-fires-former-las-vegas-office-head-reports/>; Evan Perez et al., *FBI Firing Senior Officials at Odds with Trump Administration*, CNN (Aug. 7, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/08/07/politics/fbi-fires-senior-officials-at-odds-with-trump-administration>.

In addition, an even more troubling pattern has emerged. Recent public reporting found that “at least 18 of 53 special agents in charge ... have been pushed out under the Trump [A]dministration—and among them, half have been women, people of color or both.”⁵ My office also understands that senior executives, SACs, Assistant SACs, and other supervisory agents—all of whom are women and/or people of color—have been removed, reassigned, or forced to retire from multiple field offices, including but not limited to: Birmingham, Alabama; Houston, Texas; Jacksonville, Florida; Los Angeles, California; Mobile, Alabama; New Orleans, Louisiana; Salt Lake City, Utah; San Diego, California; and St. Louis, Missouri. These individuals represent decades of expertise, public service, and commitment to the Bureau’s mission and our public safety. For any of them to be ousted for reasons such as race, ethnicity, or gender—let alone to be replaced by individuals who have not been required to meet the same rigorous standards—is unacceptable.

Furthermore, my office understands the Bureau is contemplating reintroducing specific physical fitness standards that would have the effect of reducing the number of women in the FBI’s existing workforce by an estimated 30 percent. I also understand that at the direction of the Director and Deputy Director, the FBI is considering changing the existing standards without engaging in the typical two-year review process.

I ask that you investigate these arbitrary removals, forced retirements, and reassignments of senior FBI personnel to determine the impact on the Bureau’s national security and law enforcement operations. As part of that inquiry, I ask that you review any targeting of senior officials or supervisors who are women and/or persons of color—whether through removal, forced retirement, or reassignment—as well the implementation of any standards meant to reduce the number of individuals in protected classes. I also ask that you review the impact of the Bureau circumventing its standard process to review or alter physical fitness or training requirements and the impact such rapid changes will have on the Bureau’s ability to recruit and retain its workforce.

Your office has a solemn obligation to hold the Bureau and the Director to account, especially given the credible concerns that seemingly politically motivated decisions are harming the core mission of the FBI.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important request.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member

⁵ Ken Dilanian, *High-Ranking FBI Job Losses Disproportionately Hurt Women, People of Color*, MSNBC (Aug. 5, 2025), <https://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/amp/rcna222988>.