The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2703 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20593

May 5, 2022

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

We write to you to express concerns about the newly created “Disinformation Governance Board” within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which you announced last week.¹ The creation of this Board is problematic for several reasons.

First, we have ethical concerns about an organization charged with securing the homeland engaging in anything that could have an impact on speech. We believe that the Disinformation Governance Board could be utilized as a political tool under the guise of security. This has the potential to severely undermine the American people’s confidence in the Department, especially as we enter the 2022 election season.

Second, the Department’s primary mission sets are countering terrorism, securing the border, securing cyberspace and infrastructure, upholding economic security, strengthening resilience, and strengthening DHS itself.² Traditionally, combatting misinformation has been a foreign mission relegated to the elements of the intelligence community with equities in foreign operations. As a domestically focused Department, we are concerned that DHS is overstepping its authority with the creation of this Board. DHS has developed a stalwart reputation as a defender of the homeland primarily because it has focused on these mission sets and has remained non-partisan in achieving them. Implementing something as vague as a “Disinformation Governance Board” will distract from these mission sets and potentially tarnish the non-partisan reputation the Department has developed since its founding.

Additionally, during your testimony last week, you claimed the Biden administration has “effectively managed” the border crisis.³ Meanwhile, the policies of the current administration have resulted in over 1.5 million border encounters in the last six months, which is the largest in our nation’s history.⁴ We are concerned that the Disinformation Governance Board will distract from this crisis.

Third, we are concerned with the appointment of Nina Jankowicz as the head of this Board. Ms. Jankowicz has, on several occasions, displayed questionable judgment on matters of

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disinformation and freedom of speech.\textsuperscript{5} For example, she has expressed support for Christopher Steele, author of the Steele Dossier. This document has long-since been discredited as one of its main sources was charged with five counts of making false statements to the FBI. Ms. Jankowicz has also cast doubt on the Hunter Biden laptop story, which she falsely claimed was “a Trump campaign product.”\textsuperscript{6}

For these reasons, we request that you respond to the following questions thirty days from the date of receipt of this letter.

1. Under what legal authority is DHS creating this Disinformation Governance Board?
2. What is the Board’s specific directive and mission? What authorities will it have under the Department?
3. How does this Board help DHS protect the homeland from threats? Why is DHS putting valuable resources toward a mission that it appears to have no equity in when there is an ongoing crisis at our southern border?
4. Why was Ms. Jankowicz chosen to head this Board? Who were the other candidates considered for this position? What qualifications and vetting procedures did the Department utilize when determining who would head up the Disinformation Governance Board?

Sincerely,

C. Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress

Kevin McCarthy  
Member of Congress

Steve Scalise  
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress

Mike Johnson  
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress

Gary Palmer  
Member of Congress

\textsuperscript{5} The Washington Examiner, “\textit{Biden ‘disinformation’ chief a Trump dossier author fan and Hunter Biden laptop doubter},” April 28, 2022.

\textsuperscript{6} Fox News, “\textit{Biden's disinformation director referred to Hunter's laptop as a 'Trump campaign product'},” April 28, 2022.
Randy Weber  
Member of Congress

Gus Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress

Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Chuck Fleischmann  
Member of Congress

Billy Long  
Member of Congress

Stephanie Bice  
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

Dan Bishop  
Member of Congress

Nancy Mace  
Member of Congress

Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress

Ted Budd  
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress

Fred Keller  
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress

Andy Barr  
Member of Congress

Madison Cawthorn  
Member of Congress
Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress

Byron Donalds
Member of Congress

John Joyce
Member of Congress

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

Tracey Mann
Member of Congress

Thomas P. Tiffany
Member of Congress

Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress

Ken Buck
Member of Congress

Kevin Hern
Member of Congress

Glenn “GT” Thompson
Member of Congress

Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress

Earl L. “Buddy” Carter
Member of Congress

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

Mike Carey
Member of Congress

Dan Meuser
Member of Congress
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

Mark Amodei
Member of Congress

Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress

Lance Gooden
Member of Congress

Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress

John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress

Bryan Steil
Member of Congress

Roger Williams
Member of Congress

Chris Jacobs
Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress

Trent Kelly
Member of Congress

Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress

Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress

Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress

Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress

Adrian Smith
Member of Congress

Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress

Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress
David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

French Hill  
Member of Congress

David Kustoff  
Member of Congress

Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress

A. Drew Ferguson IV  
Member of Congress

Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress

Tony Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress

Blake Moore  
Member of Congress

Michelle Steel  
Member of Congress

Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress

Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress

Pat Fallon  
Member of Congress

Ashley Hinson  
Member of Congress

Jason Smith  
Member of Congress

John Katko  
Member of Congress

Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress
Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress

Michael Guest
Member of Congress

David Schweikert
Member of Congress

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress

Mark E Green, M.D.
Member of Congress

Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress

Van Taylor
Member of Congress

Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress

Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress

Blaine Leukemeyer
Member of Congress

Young Kim
Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress

Kevin Brady
Member of Congress

Trey Hollingsworth
Member of Congress

Mike Garcia
Member of Congress

Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress

Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress
Burgess Owens  
Member of Congress  

Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress  

Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress  

Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress  

Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress