

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

February 2, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20451

Dear Secretary Rubio:

Congress established the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as an independent agency, separate from the Department of State, to ensure that we can deploy development expertise and U.S. foreign assistance quickly, particularly in times of crisis, to meet our national security goals. For this reason, any effort to merge or fold USAID into the Department of State should be, and by law must be, previewed, discussed, and approved by Congress. Congress has also made clear that any attempt to reorganize or redesign USAID requires advance consultation with, and notification to, Congress.

Consistent with past precedent, we expect and welcome the Department of State's and USAID's engagement on any proposed organizational reforms, and other matters implicating congressional requirements.

While we continue to welcome such engagement, we write with deep concern about this weekend's developments at USAID's headquarters.

We received reports that individuals who identified themselves as working for the "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE) accessed USAID's main headquarters, including classified spaces. While some of the individuals purported to have security clearances, it is unclear whether those who accessed secure classified facilities had proper clearance or what they were seeking to access. We understand that the security guards present at the facility were threatened when they raised questions. As members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, we had not been notified of any such visit to USAID by DOGE or other agency officials.

Following this incident, the senior management of the Office of Security, which secures USAID personnel and facilities and safeguards national security information, were placed on administrative leave. The potential access of sensitive, even classified, files, which may include the personally identifiable information (PII) of Americans working with USAID, and this incident as a whole, raises deep concerns about the protection and safeguarding of matters related to U.S. national security.

We request an immediate update about the access of USAID's headquarters, including whether the individuals who accessed the headquarters were authorized to be there and by whom, whether all individuals who accessed classified spaces have active security clearances at the appropriate level, what they were seeking to access, if any PII of American citizens was breached, and whether any review is underway regarding potential unauthorized access to sensitive personnel information and classified materials.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Chris S. Murphy  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Cory Booker  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator