

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
FINANCE
JUDICIARY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

December 14, 2023

Ms. Kiran Ahuja
Director
U.S. Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20415-1000

Dear Director Ahuja,

We write to express concern over the decision by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to remove a page from its website that has documented, for over a decade, the amount of “official time” taken by employees of federal agencies. As you know, “official time” is defined as time used by federal employees to engage in labor union related activities instead of their assigned duties during regular working hours. In its latest official time report, issued in 2019, the OPM approximated that federal employees spent at least 2.6 million hours on labor union activities, which equate to roughly \$135 million in federal taxpayer dollars.¹

This webpage, which has been made available by various administrations since 2013, is critical for congressional oversight over the federal civil service workforce. Further, it is also concerning that under this Administration, OPM appears to have stopped creating official time reports which have been published since 1998.² The American people deserve to know how much “official time” is being conducted and funded by their hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

Accordingly, we ask that you respond to the following questions before January 14, 2024:

1. Why was the webpage documenting official time reports removed from your website?

¹ Nelsen, Maxford. “Biden Administration Covering up Taxpayer-Funded Union Activities in the Federal Workforce.” *Freedom Foundation*, 21 Nov. 2023, www.freedomfoundation.com/labor/biden-administration-covering-up-taxpayer-funded-union-activities-in-the-federal-workforce/.

² Catenacci, Thomas, and Fox News. “Biden Admin Scrubs Webpage Showing How Taxpayers Fund Union Activities.” *Fox News*, FOX News Network, 21 Nov. 2023, www.foxnews.com/politics/white-house-scrubs-webpage-showing-taxpayers-fund-union-activities.

2. When will the OPM issue its next official time report?
3. What is the most up-to-date estimate for yearly "official time" conducted by federal employees?
4. When will OPM make public the latest estimates of "official time" conducted by federal employees?

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Tom Cotton
United States Senator



Ted Budd
United States Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator



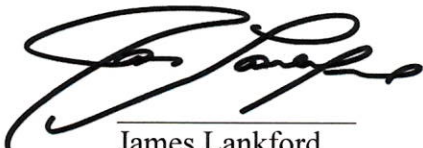
Mike Lee
United States Senator



Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator



Bill Hagerty
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator