

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2025

Mr. Stephen Ehikian  
Acting Administrator  
General Services Administration  
1800 F St NW  
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Acting Administrator Ehikian :

We are writing to express deep concern with the General Services Administration's (GSA) recent termination of federal government leases across Illinois. As of March 6, 2025, GSA, in conjunction with the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), claims to have terminated 793 federal leases across the country—24 of which are in Illinois. These abrupt lease terminations have left impacted agencies in the dark and created alarm and confusion for federal workers.

The Trump Administration has made clear its intent to reduce GSA's footprint by selling half of the buildings owned by the federal government and terminating half of the leases used by federal agencies nationwide. However, the lack of transparency around these actions and DOGE's influence in the process of lease terminations is troubling. The "wall of receipts" touted on the DOGE website is not an adequate source of information. The so-called department has acted carelessly, terminating leases recklessly and without proper consultation with the agencies involved or consideration for the workers, constituents, and communities impacted by these decisions.

GSA and DOGE terminated 24 leases in Illinois, claiming an alleged "savings" of \$15 million. We are concerned about the impact these lease terminations may have on Illinoisans' ability to access critical federal services. For example, the closure of a Social Security Administration (SSA) office in Rockford, Illinois, could make it difficult for seniors and people with disabilities to schedule appointments or apply for retirement and disability benefits, as the next closest SSA office is more than a 30-minute drive away. In addition, DOGE reportedly is pressuring the SSA to reduce its 1-800 phone services, which would exacerbate the difficulty seniors and people with disabilities would face in claiming their benefits.

Several Department of Labor office leases in Illinois also were terminated, including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration office in Naperville, Illinois, and the Wage and Hour Division office in Springfield, Illinois. These closures will make it more difficult for Illinoisans to report workplace incidents and file confidential complaints against employers who violate wage and child labor laws, as well as health and safety standards. Further, the termination of the Small Business Administration (SBA) office lease in Springfield, Illinois, along with a March 6, 2025, announcement that SBA plans to relocate its Chicago regional office, could leave Illinois without an SBA office at all. This decision would complicate Illinois small businesses' ability to access SBA loan programs, disaster recovery loans, and federal contracts crucial to their livelihoods.

To better understand how the lease terminations impact Illinois, we ask that you provide answers to the questions below by April 4, 2025:

1. How were the 24 leases in Illinois identified for termination? Please outline any criteria used in the decision-making process.
2. What is DOGE's involvement in the decision-making process for GSA lease terminations?
3. Has there been communication between GSA and the impacted federal agencies regarding next steps? Were the impacted federal agencies given any advance notification prior to DOGE's publication of these lease terminations?
4. How many federal workers are impacted by the 24 lease terminations in Illinois?
5. Are there plans to relocate federal employees in the affected offices?
6. To what degree were workforce and local economic impacts taken into consideration in the decision to terminate the leases in Illinois?
7. Has GSA developed a plan to ensure constituent services will not be impacted by these lease terminations? If so, please provide us with a copy of this plan.

We appreciate your timely response to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



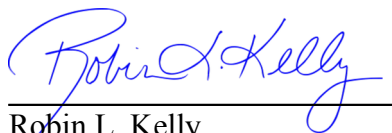
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



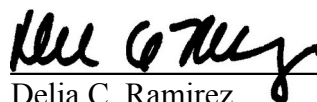
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



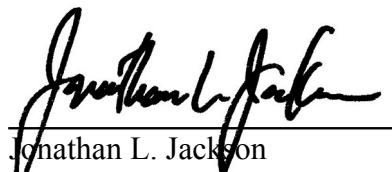
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



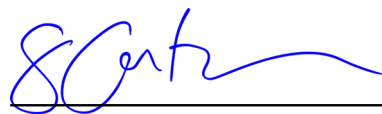
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



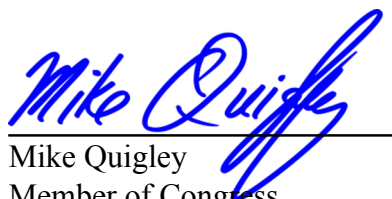
Delia C. Ramirez  
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Lauren Underwood  
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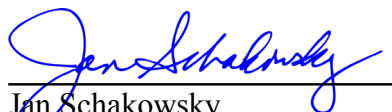
Nikki Budzinski  
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