

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 26, 2026

The Honorable Todd Blanche  
Acting Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Acting Attorney General Blanche:

We write to request that the Department of Justice preserve all records related to the proposed \$1.776 billion “Anti-Weaponization Fund” (the “Fund”) and the purported “Settlement Agreement” in *Trump v. Internal Revenue Service*, No. 1:26-cv-20609 (S.D. Fla.).

On May 18, 2026, DOJ announced the creation of the Fund “to provide a systematic process to hear and redress claims of others who suffered weaponization and lawfare.”<sup>1</sup> You testified to Congress on May 19, 2026, that the Fund would allow those who stormed the Capitol on January 6, 2021, to apply, including those who assaulted law enforcement officers during the attack on the Capitol.<sup>2</sup> This would mean nearly 175 January 6 rioters who used a dangerous or deadly weapon to assault law enforcement officers can seek compensation from the Fund, including a rioter who drove a stun gun into a law enforcement officer’s neck.<sup>3</sup> The Fund also lacks basic transparency and accountability measures, granting President Trump the authority to remove any administrator of the Fund without cause and allowing only the Attorney General to receive information about the identity of recipients per the terms of the “Settlement Agreement.”<sup>4</sup>

Additionally, on May 19, 2026, DOJ released an addendum to the “Settlement Agreement” stating that the U.S. government would be “forever barred” from pursuing “examinations” of President Trump, his family, “related or affiliated individuals,” and related trusts and businesses, for any matter involving previously filed tax returns or “Lawfare and/or Weaponization.”<sup>5</sup> This addendum purports to grant President Trump and a wide swath of associates and related companies immunity from any ongoing tax audits, including one in which a potential adverse ruling could have cost President Trump more than \$100 million.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dep’t of Justice, *Press Release, Justice Department Announces Anti-Weaponization Fund* (May 18, 2026), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-anti-weaponization-fund>.

<sup>2</sup> See Hailey Fuchs & Josh Gerstein, *Todd Blanche tells appropriators payouts for Jan. 6 rioters are possible*, POLITICO (May 19, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2026/05/19/congress/blanche-doesnt-rule-out-j6-payouts-00927704>.

<sup>3</sup> See Alan Feuer & Dmitriy Khavin, *Many Jan. 6 Rioters Pardoned by Trump Attacked Police, Videos Show*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 23, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/23/us/politics/jan-6-trump-pardon-capitol-riots-video-evidence.html>.

<sup>4</sup> See Settlement Agreement, *Trump v. Internal Revenue Service*, No. 1:26-cv-20609 (S.D. Fla.), § IV, B & E, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1441201/dl?inline>.

<sup>5</sup> Office of the Attorney General, *Addendum* (May 19, 2026), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1441216/dl>.

<sup>6</sup> See Russ Buettner, *With Trump’s Deal, a Possible \$100 Million I.R.S. Penalty Melts Away*, N.Y. TIMES (May 19, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/19/us/politics/trump-settlement-irs.html>.

Please preserve any existing and future records, documents, and materials related to the Fund and “Settlement Agreement,” including any materials related to DOJ’s development of and decision to create the Fund and enter into the “Settlement Agreement.” As you know, federal law, including the Federal Records Act, imposes an obligation to preserve federal records on all DOJ employees and makes violations subject to criminal prosecution. This requirement includes preservation of electronic messages sent using both official and personal accounts or devices and records created using text messages, phone-based message applications, or encryption software.<sup>7</sup>

We look forward to your prompt response and acknowledgment of your compliance with this request.

Sincerely,



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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator  
Ranking Member,  
Subcommittee on Federal  
Courts, Oversight, Agency  
Action, and Federal Rights



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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator  
Ranking Member, Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary

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<sup>7</sup> See 44 U.S.C. § 2911.