

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 22, 2026

Orice Williams Brown
Acting Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Acting Comptroller Brown:

We write to request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) open an investigation into and issue a legal decision regarding the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) plan to use up to \$397 million in funds provided to the U.S. Secret Service in the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* (Pub. L. No. 119-21) for construction of a ballroom at the White House.

After President Trump repeatedly promised that “there’s not one dime of government money going into the ballroom”¹ and “we’re putting up our own money,”² earlier this month, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) set aside \$351.6 million in taxpayer dollars for “White House Security Measures” through an apportionment.³ OMB then set aside another \$45 million late last week in an updated apportionment—for a total of up to \$396.6 million set aside for the project.⁴ It appears OMB Director Russell Vought is determined to make a liar out of President Trump. This is not merely an outrageous use of taxpayer funds; it also raises serious legal concerns.

The Trump Administration has confirmed to our staff and the press that it plans to tap Secret Service funding to support the ballroom,⁵ but there is no funding available for that purpose. Republicans’ “Big Beautiful Bill” provided Secret Service with \$1.17 billion, which “may only be used for” a set of prescribed purposes, including “personnel, training facilities, programming, and technology” as well as “performance, retention, and signing bonuses for qualified United States Secret Service personnel.”⁶ The ballroom falls into none of these categories.

The Constitution requires the Executive Branch to execute funding as Congress has intended, and the Purpose Statute specifically provides that “Appropriations shall be applied only to the objects for which the appropriations were made except as otherwise provided by law.” The

¹ <https://rollcall.com/factbase/trump/transcript/donald-trump-press-gaggle-air-force-one-march-29-2026/#18>

² <https://rollcall.com/factbase/trump/transcript/donald-trump-speech-lunch-republican-senators-rose-garden-october-21-2025/#13>

³ <https://openomb.org/file/11525117>, <https://openomb.org/file/11524924>

⁴ <https://openomb.org/file/11525117>

⁵ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/2026/06/18/budget-office-redirects-352m-secret-service-funds-white-house-security/>

⁶ See Public Law 119-21, Title X, Subtitle A, Part II, Section 100057.

Antideficiency Act similarly prohibits the obligation of funds in excess of available appropriations.

Using this funding to finance President Trump's White House ballroom likely constitutes a violation of the law.

We, therefore, request that GAO investigate and provide a legal decision on whether the administration's use of these funds violates federal law.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate



Christopher S. Murphy
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate