

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 28, 2026

Mr. William M. Blier
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Acting Inspector General Blier:

We write to request that you immediately initiate an investigation into the creation of the nearly \$1.8 billion “Anti-Weaponization Fund” announced by the Department of Justice (DOJ) on May 18, 2026, from a settlement agreement in *Trump v. Internal Revenue Service (IRS)*.¹ This slush fund represents waste, fraud, and abuse of an unprecedented magnitude and must be subjected to independent scrutiny.

The dispute in *Trump v. IRS* involved questionably adverse parties—the President sued his own Administration, naming the personnel he directs as defendants.² Reflecting this very concern, the judge presiding over the case scheduled a hearing for May 27, 2026, to consider whether there was sufficient adverseness between the parties involved for the case to proceed.³

The Fund will draw almost \$1.8 billion from the Judgment Fund, a permanent, indefinite appropriation funded by American tax dollars to pay legitimate settlements and court judgments against the United States.⁴ Now these tax dollars are set to go to whomever President Trump pleases; there are no limitations on individuals affiliated with the President receiving payments from the Fund.⁵ Not only is the baseless partisan nature of the Fund egregious in and of itself, but the Fund has no limits on payouts to individuals convicted of violent crimes,

¹ See U.S. Dep’t of Justice, *Justice Department Announces Anti-Weaponization Fund* (May 18, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-anti-weaponization-fund>.

² See Ryan Reilly et al., *DOJ Sets Up \$1.8B ‘Anti-Weaponization’ Fund After Trump Drops IRS Lawsuit*, NBC NEWS (May 18, 2026), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-voluntarily-drops-10-billion-lawsuit-irs-leaked-tax-records-rcna345193>.

³ See *Trump v. Internal Revenue Service*, No. 26-cv-20609 (S.D. Fla. 2026).

⁴ See Ryan Reilly et al., *supra* note 2.

⁵ See Document Enacting Settlement Agreement, signed by Acting Att’y Gen. Todd Blanche, U.S. Dep’t of Justice (May 18, 2026), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1441086/dl>.

including, for instance, the President's supporters who were convicted of assaulting law enforcement officers on January 6, 2021,⁶ at least one of whom has gone on to commit further horrendous crimes empowered by his belief in future monetary restitution from the Trump Administration.⁷

President Trump and his appointees have virtually complete discretion over the Fund's structure and who gets payouts.⁸ According to DOJ, the Fund's rules and procedures may be shielded from the public at the discretion of the Fund's commissioners.⁹ The only person who will receive information about who has received a payout is the Attorney General—provided in a confidential report that is shielded from public scrutiny.¹⁰

As part of this settlement, the President was also granted immunity from pending and future tax liability.¹¹ This blanket immunity wipes away the potential for a \$100 million tax penalty.¹²

The settlement agreement, and its addendum,¹³ were signed by DOJ officials with clear conflicts of interest. Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche, who signed the addendum, served as President Trump's lead criminal defense attorney in multiple matters prior to his current role.¹⁴ He was reportedly advised to recuse himself from any personal matters involving the President shortly after he was

⁶ See *id.*

⁷ See Tom Dreisbach, *A Jan. 6 Rioter Pardoned by Trump Was Sentenced to Life in Prison for Child Sex Abuse*, NPR (Mar. 5, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/03/05/nx-s1-5725470/trump-jan-6-pardon-sexual-abuse-prison>.

⁸ See Document Enacting Settlement Agreement, *supra* note 5.

⁹ See Katherine Faulders, *Trump Administration to Create \$1.776B 'Truth and Justice Commission' to Compensate Allies: Sources*, ABC (May 17, 2026), <https://abc7news.com/post/trump-administration-create-1776b-truth-justice-commission-compensate-allies-sources-say/19116651/>.

¹⁰ See Settlement Agreement, *Internal Revenue Service* (online at <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/28132616-sdfl-settlement-signed/>).

¹¹ See Document Enacting Settlement Agreement, *supra* note 5.

¹² See Russ Buettner, *With Trump's Deal, a Possible \$100 Million I.R.S. Penalty Melts Away*, NY TIMES (May 19, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/19/us/politics/trump-settlement-irs.html?smid=url-share>.

¹³ See Settlement Agreement, *supra* note 10; Document Enacting Settlement Agreement, *supra* note 5.

¹⁴ Glenn Thrush, *Trump's Fund Shows Blanche Choosing Loyalty Over Pushing Back*, NY TIMES (May 21, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/21/us/politics/trump-fund-todd-blanche-doj.html>.

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confirmed as Deputy Attorney General.¹⁵ Associate Attorney General Stanley Woodward, who signed the agreement, represented January 6th defendants and allies of the President in the Mar-a-Lago classified documents case brought by Special Counsel Jack Smith.¹⁶

This settlement agreement and the fund it creates demand accountability.

Congress mandated that inspectors general be established as “independent and objective units” that “prevent and detect fraud and abuse.”¹⁷ The Fund’s structure, secrecy, and lack of payout criteria, and general arbitrariness, fall well within your authority.

We request that the Office of the Inspector General launch an immediate, thorough, and quick investigation. We also request that any matters deemed to fall outside of OIG’s jurisdiction be promptly referred to the Office of Professional Responsibility for appropriate review. Please also notify our offices by June 2, 2026 of your decision.¹⁸

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

¹⁵ Katelyn Polantz, Evan Perez, and Hannah Rabinowitz, *Exclusive: Acting AG Todd Blanche was told last year to recuse from Justice Department matters involving Trump*, CNN (May 14, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/05/14/politics/todd-blanche-recusal-trump-investigations-brennan>.

¹⁶ Perry Stein, *Lawyer in Trump’s classified docs case tapped for No. 3 job at Justice*, WASHINGTON POST (Apr. 2, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/04/02/stan-woodward-trump-justice-associate-attorney-general/>.

¹⁷ 5 U.S.C. § 402(b); *see also* 5 U.S.C. § 413(b)(4), Congress explicitly provided that the “Inspector General of the Department of Justice . . . may investigate allegations of . . . administrative misconduct by a person who is the head of any agency or component of the Department of Justice[.]” Acting Attorney General Blanche’s creation of this fund and its reported structure fall well within this statutory authority.

¹⁸ *See* 5 U.S.C. § 404(a)(5) (directing the Inspector General “to keep the head of the establishment and Congress fully and currently informed . . . concerning fraud and other serious problems, abuses, and deficiencies relating to the administration of programs and operations administered or financed by the establishment, to recommend corrective action concerning the problems, abuses, and deficiencies, and to report on the progress made in implementing the corrective action”). The Fund appears to violate DOJ’s own policy, which states: “Except in limited circumstances . . . settlements should not be used to require payments to non-governmental, third-party organizations that were neither victims nor parties to the lawsuits[.]” Memorandum from Pamela Pondi, Att’y Gen., to All Dep’t Emps. (Feb. 5, 2026) (online at <https://www.justice.gov/ag/media/1388536/dl?inline>).

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CC: Senior Advisor Don Berthiaume

Sincerely,



Peter Welch
United States Senator



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



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



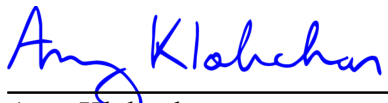
Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator