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May 19, 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:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the "Anti-Weaponization Fund" as explained in the proposed settlement agreement in the case of *Trump v. IRS* and in your May 18, 2026, order. I am deeply concerned that this fund is nontransparent; that it ignores and disrespects the Federal courts as the proper venue for consideration of individual claims against Federal agencies; and, worst of all, that this plan will inevitably result in \$1.776 billion in taxpayer funding being handed over to individuals who have violated the laws of the United States, including persons who have participated in violent insurrection, assaulted police officers, and compromised the national security of the United States. This is completely unacceptable.

As the Ranking Member of the House Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, which determines the Justice Department's annual budget, I take seriously my obligation to conduct oversight of the Department's use of billions of taxpayer dollars, and the need for such spending to be fully transparent and in accordance with the law.

Please provide answers to all the following questions as soon as possible, but by no later than Friday, May 22, 2026:

1. Please provide a detailed background on the Department's analysis that resulted in the calculation of the precise figure of \$1,776,000,000 for the "Anti-Weaponization Fund" as outlined in the proposed settlement agreement in the case of *Trump v. IRS*.

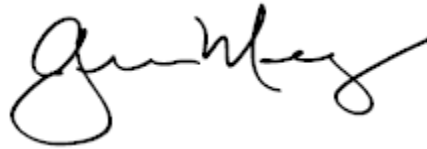
2. What are the legal definitions of the terms “lawfare” and “weaponization”?
3. Individuals who believe they have been harmed by the actions of Federal agencies have long had the right to seek redress by filing suit in Federal court. Does the Department intend, as part of this “Anti-Weaponization Fund” process, to pay settlements to individuals whose cases have already been adjudicated and denied in Federal court?
4. Career attorneys within the Civil Division have historically represented the United States, its departments and agencies, Cabinet Officers, and other federal employees in any civil or criminal matter, as appropriate. Why shouldn’t the Civil Division simply continue to represent the United States and contest claims made against the United States in such cases in Federal court, rather than simply making settlement payments without contest as contemplated by this “Anti-Weaponization Fund” process?
5. How will the five members of the “Anti-Weaponization Fund” be chosen? Please provide details on this anticipated process. What qualifications will be required of the members, and is it anticipated that both major political parties will be represented among these members?
6. How will the Department share with Congress and the American people the process by which the Department decides who will receive settlement payments under the “Anti-Weaponization Fund”, and how much money these individuals will be paid?
7. Since President Trump will be able to remove members of the “Anti-Weaponization Fund” without cause, isn’t it clear that the “Anti-Weaponization Fund” settlement decisions will ultimately be fully reflective of what President Trump personally wants, rather than the result of any independent judgment or analysis? What precedent exists for DOJ to award specific settlement funds reflective of the desires of the President of the United States?
8. Section IV(E) of the settlement agreement directs the “Anti-Weaponization Fund” to provide to the Attorney General “a confidential written report that includes the name...of each claimant who has received any relief and if so, nature of such relief”. Since this relief requires the payment of taxpayer dollars, why will this information be kept confidential? Does the Department intend to keep secret from the American people the names of persons who receive settlement payments under this plan, even though such settlement payments will be funded with their tax dollars?
9. Your May 18, 2026 order asserts that a payment of \$1,776,000,000 shall be placed into a Designated Account “for the sole use by the Anti-Weaponization Fund” and that “once the funds are deposited into the Designated Account, the United States has no liability whatsoever for the protection or safeguarding of those funds, regardless of bank failure, fraudulent transfers, or any other fraud or misuse of the funds.” Why? How will the Department then safeguard taxpayer funds against fraud or misuse?
10. Since Section 4 of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits the payment of “any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States”, will the Justice Department ensure that no persons who participated in or supported the

violent insurrection in the U.S. Capitol Building on January 6, 2021, will be given settlement payments? If not, why not?

11. Do you currently anticipate that any persons who assaulted police officers on January 6, 2021, or at any other time, will be considered for settlement payments? If so, why?
12. Do you anticipate that current or former members of the Proud Boys or Oath Keepers, current or former members of any other extremist organizations, or any other insurrectionists will be considered favorably for settlement payments?
13. Please provide any further documentation from the Department regarding the decision-making process that led to this proposed settlement agreement and your May 18, 2026, order.

Thank you for your immediate written responses to these very important questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grace Meng". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping tail.

Grace Meng  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related  
Agencies