

Summary of HUD Inspector General Report

Four civil rights attorneys in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have submitted a whistleblower disclosure to Senator Warren and HUD's Inspector General, citing grave violations of federal law, gross mismanagement, and threats to public health and safety under Secretary Scott Turner's leadership.

The report details an unprecedented dismantling of HUD's fair housing enforcement capacity, politically motivated retaliation for performing civil rights work, and systemic civil rights failures that put marginalized communities and survivors of domestic violence at severe risk.

The civil rights attorneys call on Senator Warren, Congress, and HUD's OIG to exercise immediate oversight and ensure HUD ends all political interference with the rights of the American people, ceases retaliation against employees that protect civil rights, and fully staffs the Office of Fair Housing in order to fulfill its legal and moral obligations.

Summary of Demands in Letter to HUD Inspector General

Sen. Warren's letter, based on whistleblower documents from four employees within HUD's Office of Fair Housing (OFH) and staff in the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO), calls on the HUD Office of Inspector General to:

1. Review and Investigate Allegations

- Conduct a full investigation into claims that HUD leadership is dismantling civil rights and fair housing enforcement.
- Determine whether HUD is fulfilling its statutory mandate to protect the public from housing discrimination.

2. Assess Staffing Cuts and Retaliation

- Investigate the 70% reduction in OFH staff and reassignment of attorneys, which whistleblowers say undermines HUD's ability to enforce fair housing laws.
- Review alleged retaliation, including the firing of an OFH supervisor who raised concerns.

3. Investigate Destruction of Investigation and Enforcement Capacity

- Assess HUD's dismantling of Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) protections and the elimination of FHEO's trauma-informed branch, which endanger survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking.
- Examine gag orders restricting OFH attorneys from communicating with DOJ, complainants, and outside parties, which block investigations and increase risks of waste, fraud, and abuse.

- Investigate HUD's halting of at least 115 housing discrimination cases, rescinding of DOJ referrals, illegal withdrawal of settlement agreements, and illegal withdrawal of cases already referred.

4. Protect Federal Civil Rights Statutes

- Ensure HUD is not violating Title VI, the Fair Housing Act, and other civil rights laws in the implementation of Trump's anti-DEI executive orders.
- Investigate allegations of improper rejection of complaints (including LGBTQ+, disparate impact, and environmental justice cases) and language-access barriers.

5. Safeguard Fair Housing Funds

- Investigate delays in and obstruction of the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP), which put millions in congressionally mandated funds at risk of expiring and destabilized nonprofit housing organizations.