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May 13, 2026

The Honorable Tim Walz
Governor of Minnesota
State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz:

The Committee on Education and Workforce (Committee) is continuing its investigation of alleged improper payments to, or improper use of public funds by, child care providers through Minnesota's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), under the authority of the *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (CCDBG)*.¹ A substantial number of the documents produced in response to the Committee's initial oversight letter of January 5, 2026,² were nonresponsive, contained multiple duplicates or were otherwise in the public domain, and included multiple redactions. This failure to fully respond to the Committee's requests is both unacceptable and impeding the Committee's oversight and legislative efforts. This letter details the deficiencies in the document production thus far and reiterates the Committee's requests with additional specificity.

As you know, the Committee is charged with monitoring on a continuing basis the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of federal laws and programs under its jurisdiction. Congressional oversight extends to implementation of CCDBG in Minnesota through the CCAP, the state program for carrying out childcare activities. The Committee's review of alleged improper payments to or improper use of federal funds by childcare providers will help inform the Committee about the kinds of legislative changes to CCDBG that may be warranted. In this regard, the Committee recently approved several bills amending the CCDBG to strengthen the program, enhance protections against fraud, and hold accountable those who violate the law: (1) H.R. 7720, *Child Care Payment Integrity and Fraud Accountability Act*; (2) H.R. 7721, *CRACKDOWN Act*; (3) H.R. 7722, *Child Care Integrity Monitoring Act*; (4) H.R. 7723, *Safeguarding Taxpayer Dollars in Child Care Act*; (5) H.R. 7724, *No Waivers for Fraud Act*; (6) H.R. 7725, *Stop Child Care Fraud Act*; and (7) H.R. 7726, *No Funds for Repeat Child Care*

¹ 42 U.S.C. §§ 9857–9858r.

² https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/ltr_to_gov_walz_1.5.26.pdf.

Violations Act. Documents obtained through the Committee’s oversight requests will continue to inform Congress throughout the legislative process.

The Committee’s January 5 letter marked the initiation of our investigation. It requested certain documents, with a stated deadline for document production of January 20, 2026.³ On January 16, Solicitor General Liz Kramer requested an extension of time to respond.⁴ Committee staff provided an extension on January 20 via an email to Kramer.⁵ The extension consisted of a new deadline for the initial production of documents no later than January 23, with rolling productions due each week for the weeks of January 26, February 2, and February 9, and a final production due February 13.⁶ Committee staff also requested that responses be prioritized in the following order: requests 1, 5, 2-4, and 6.⁷

Two Productions (January 23, 2026, and February 13, 2026)

Although an initial document production of 101 pages was provided on January 23,⁸ it included no explanatory cover letter, nor did the production identify to which of the six categories the documents were responsive, as the Committee requested.⁹

Subsequently, on February 13, Minnesota Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Jacob Harris delivered a second production and corresponding cover letter. This production consisted of 37,855 pages, bringing the total to 37,956 produced pages. While this superficially appears to be a voluminous and substantive set of responses, upon examination it is neither. As discussed below, a substantial number of documents are either nonresponsive, duplicative, or in the public domain.¹⁰

Further, the produced documents include multiple redactions¹¹ for which no rationale is provided. AAG Harris’s assertion that the “production contains all non-privileged documents”¹² does not set forth which documents are considered privileged and thus were not produced. Nor do the productions associate any privileges with specific documents that were produced but redacted. Further, the assertion that “the Governor’s Office does not waive the attorney-client privilege or attorney work product protection”¹³ does not associate those privileges with specific redactions. The Committee does not recognize such common law

³ *Id.*

⁴ Email of Jan. 16, 2026 (on file with Comm.).

⁵ Email of Jan. 20, 2026 (on file with Comm.).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Email and documents of Jan. 23, 2026 (on file with Comm.).

⁹ The second production of February 13, 2026, similarly fails to identify to which of the Committee’s six requests Governor Walz intended to respond.

¹⁰ Email of January 20, 2026, 4:50 PM, from Committee Investigative Counsel Kent Talbert to Minnesota Solicitor General Liz Kramer (“Please do not provide public-facing web pages of offices or agencies of Minnesota state government or publicly available documents.”) (on file with Comm.).

¹¹ *See, e.g.,* Bates 58, 295, 419, 703–704, 18688–18690 as illustrative (on file with Comm.).

¹² Letter of February 13, 2026, from Assistant Attorney General Jacob Harris to Chairman Tim Walberg, H. Comm. on Educ. and Workforce at 2 (on file with Comm.).

¹³ *Id.* at 3.

privileges¹⁴ but is willing to discuss redactions of a student’s name or personally identifiable information such as personal cell phone numbers, should such exist.

1. Nonresponsive Documents

The productions were largely nonresponsive to the Committee’s requests or, at best, of limited responsiveness. For example, the letters from the HHS Office of Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to Governor Walz and Major Jacob Frey (six letters) requesting administrative data are nonresponsive.¹⁵ The referenced programs—Head Start, Low-Income Energy Assistance Program, Refugee Cash Assistance, Refugee Medical Assistance, and the Social Services Block Grant—are outside the scope of the Committee’s request.¹⁶ These letters appear in duplicate throughout the second production, totaling over 30 unresponsive letters.¹⁷

Of the 37,956 pages produced, fewer than 75 are emails or memoranda to or from either Governor Walz or Lieutenant Governor Flanagan, or both, and their respective staff.¹⁸ Fifty-one of the 37,956 pages were emails of “evening updates” from either Leo Shafranski (Executive Operations Specialist) or Luis Guerrero (Deputy Chief of Staff for Executive Operations), Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, to Governor Walz, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan, and Gwen Walz.¹⁹ The evening updates consist of summaries of communications, policy, public engagement activities, or other narratives. They are not responsive to the Committee’s requests. For example, the evening update of November 13, 2025, at Bates 700-708, consists of summaries of media outreach to a Minnesota state agency on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, “Top [State] Agency Media Hits,” various proclamations, updates on a “Federal Budget Agreement: Intoxicating Hemp Proposal,” a narrative about staff attendance at a gratitude dinner for the Isuroon community, “Weekly Constituent Tallies,” and discussions of the development of a data center, federal school vouchers, chiropractic coverage for certain patients, and assault weapons—all of which are nonresponsive.²⁰

Apart from the “evening updates” to Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan, the Committee received only one email out of 37,956 pages that was to or from the Lieutenant

¹⁴ See H. Rep. No. 105–792 (1998) (“The historic position of the House of Representatives is that committees of Congress are not bound to recognize any non-Constitutional privilege, such as the attorney-client privilege.”); S. Rep. No. 105–167 at 586 (1998) (“There is no binding authority that the Senate and its committees are legally required to recognize common-law privileges such as the attorney-client or work-product privilege. As a separate and equal branch of government, Congress is constitutionally authorized to establish its own rules of procedure, so long as they do not contravene the express provisions of the Constitution The Senate is under no obligation to recognize the attorney-client and work-product privileges.”).

¹⁵ See Bates 229–236 and Bates 239–242 (on file with Comm.).

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ See, e.g., Bates 253–255, 257–259, 375–376, 377–378, 387–388, 389–390 as illustrative (on file with Comm.).

¹⁸ See Bates 417–420, 700–708, 19163–19186, 19187–19199, 20414–20415, 20641–20647, 20648–20658 (on file with Comm.).

¹⁹ See Bates 417–420, 700–708, 19163–19186, 19187–19199 (on file with Comm.).

²⁰ See Bates 700–708 (on file with Comm.).

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Governor,²¹ and only two memoranda to or from either Governor Walz or Lieutenant Governor Flanagan.²²

Of the two memoranda, the first one—from Martha Josephson (External Relations Manager), Office of Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan, to Governor Walz—consists of background information about a legislative action day hosted by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities to be attended by the Governor on February 12, 2025.²³ It summarized several policy issues (i.e., local government aid and taxes, bonding, water and wastewater infrastructure, child care budget proposal, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development’s child care economic development grants, housing, and emergency medical services).²⁴ Though the Minnesota child care budget proposal mentions the federal CCDF in passing, no part of the memo specifically addresses the Committee’s requests.

More troublesome are the 34,700 documents consisting of press releases and news articles. In Bates 994-18655 and Bates 20877-37956, several iterations of a daily press release titled “Daily Principal Mentions,” which are emailed to undisclosed recipients by Maren Stewart (Press Secretary), Office of Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan, are included. The press releases pertain primarily to Governor Walz’s exit from the Minnesota gubernatorial race, an executive order on gun control, and other topics also unresponsive to the Committee’s requests. Specifically, Bates 1645-1736 (92 pages) is a press release which includes over 70 news articles about Governor Walz exiting the 2026 gubernatorial race. Likewise, Bates 1941-1980 (40 pages) consists of a press release and over 30 news articles about a new executive order on gun control that Governor Walz signed in December 2025.

AAG Harris also provided non-responsive litigation documents in *State of Minnesota v. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture*, Civil Action No. 1:25-cv-04767-LMP-JFD (D. Minn.), and *City of Saint Paul v. Christopher Wright in his official capacity as Secretary of Energy*, Civil Action No. 1:25-cv-03899 (D.D.C.), Bates 19364-19602 (239 pages). The subject matter of the first lawsuit—the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—is not a matter of inquiry of the Committee. Nor is the second lawsuit.²⁵ Finally, AAG Harris’ production of the Committee’s January 5, 2026, letter to Governor Walz is curious, given it originated with the Committee.²⁶

²¹ See Bates 20414–20415 (two-page email of Dec. 19, 2025, 22:56:35, from Luis Guerrero, Office of Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan, to Lieutenant Governor Flanagan with subject line “AMPLIFY: Countering Misinformation with Facts”) (on file with Comm.).

²² See Bates 20641–20647 (memorandum of Feb. 12, 2025, from Martha Josephson (External Relations Manager) to Governor Walz about legislative action day of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities) and Bates 20648-20658 (memorandum of Nov. 7, 2023, from Jane Kolar (Communications) to Lieutenant Governor Flanagan about upcoming interview with Minnesota Contigo’s Oscar Rodriguez) (on file with Comm.).

²³ See Bates 20641-20647 (on file with Comm.).

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ The second lawsuit, *City of St. Paul v. Christopher Wright, in his official capacity as Secretary of Energy* concerns U.S. Department of Energy programs, unrelated to the Committee’s requests.

²⁶ Committee staff specifically requested Minnesota not to send publicly available documents. See *supra* note 10; The four-page letter can be found in duplicate at least 10 times as an attachment to an email from the Office of Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan to Minnesota agencies.

2. Duplicate Documents

Many documents were not only nonresponsive but also duplicates. Of the 101-page first production, over 40 pages, in whole or part, are duplicates of other pages provided in the same production. For example, Bates 1 is an email dated December 29, 2025, from Claire Lancaster, Office of the Governor, to Greta Bergstrom of the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) and Carissa Larsen of DCYF inquiring about closed childcare facilities (“Which facility was closed already? And confirming that all of the providers had already been referred to law enforcement?”).²⁷ Minnesota transmitted the same email to the Committee again at Bates 4, 8, 12, 16, and 21.²⁸

Similar examples abound in over 20 other pages of email conversations. For example, Bates 39-40 is an email message of January 5, 2026, 2:35 PM, from Elizabeth Wieand of HHS to Jeremy Bratt [on behalf of Governor Walz] that includes a message from Darcie Johnston, Director of the HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, to Governor Walz and an HHS letter about temporary restrictions on the drawdown of CCDF awards. Duplicates of the email appear at Bates 49-50, 51-52, and 56-57. Similarly, Bates 60-62 is a table-based index of letters received by Governor Walz in December 2025 from federal departments, agencies, or Members of Congress. The index is a duplicate of the index found in Bates 65-67, 68-70, 71-73, 92-97, and 99-101.

The same is true for the second production. Bates 994-18665 (17,672 pages) and Bates 20877-37956 (17,080 pages) consist of the previously discussed “Daily Principal Mentions” from December 2-5, 8, 12, 17-19, 22 and 30, 2025, as well as January 5 and 6, 2026. Each of these press releases is repeated 30 or more times throughout the production, with most repeated 50 or more times. For example, Bates 994-1089 (96 pages), dated January 6, 2026, is a press release containing numerous articles about Governor Walz choosing not to run for reelection. In addition to being outside the scope of the Committee’s requests, and thus nonresponsive, the same press release was provided to the Committee at least 66 times, resulting in over 6,000 pages of duplicates.²⁹

One other example is a press release dated December 17, 2025, primarily about the Walz administration’s executive order on gun control.³⁰ The release appears at least 53 times throughout the second production.³¹ This one unresponsive press release constitutes over 3,000 pages of duplicate documents.³² In summary, with its duplicates, Minnesota creates a misleading impression of a large volume of distinctly responsive documents.

²⁷ See Bates 1 (on file with the Comm.).

²⁸ The substance of the emails at Bates 4, 8, 12, 16, and 21 is the same as the Bates 1 email, although the time indicated is 2:32 PM (Bates 4,8,12,16, 21), rather than 20:31:31 (Bates 1) (on file with Comm.).

²⁹ Sixty-six instances of duplication @ 96 pages (one press release) = 6,336 pages.

³⁰ See Bates 1375 - 1434 (on file with Comm.).

³¹ See Bates 1914 - 1973, 2565 - 2624, 3216 - 3275 as illustrative (on file with Comm.).

³² Fifty-three instances of duplication @ 60 pages (one press release) = 3,180 pages.

3. Public Documents

Not only are the foregoing releases duplicated throughout the two productions but also the information is otherwise publicly available. The Committee requested that Minnesota not submit publicly available documents.³³ For example, Bates 1096-1158 (63 pages) is a press release from December 30, 2025, consisting primarily of the following: (1) published news articles about Governor Walz declaring a “peace time emergency” due to a winter storm; (2) Minnesota Republicans calling for Governor Walz to resign; and (3) Governor Walz responding to a Nick Shirley video about alleged fraud occurring at child care centers in Minnesota.

Another press release dated December 12, 2025, includes news articles about issues such as Mike Lindell announcing his Minnesota gubernatorial candidacy. The Committee has not requested, nor does it seek, “publicly available documents.”³⁴ Despite the Committee’s request, Minnesota produced over 34,750 pages of information otherwise publicly available. This constitutes over 90 percent of the documents.

4. Redactions

Finally, throughout the two productions, Minnesota has redacted significant blocks of text from numerous emails. As stated earlier in this letter, the Committee does not recognize any non-Constitutional privileges, nor has Minnesota otherwise stated any privileges associated with particular redactions, other than to assert a broad, general statement about attorney-client privilege and work-product privilege in its cover letter of February 13, 2026.³⁵ Minnesota should explain its reasons for each redaction.

Examples of blocks of redacted text are:

- Bates 295 (redacts 100 percent of the body of an email message of December 31, 2025, 6:08 PM, between Anne O’Connor of the Governor’s office and others in the office or Minnesota state agencies with subject “FOR REVIEW ASAP – Info for media and partners”);³⁶
- Bates 419 (redacts 50 percent of Bates 419, which is part of a body of an email message of January 6, 2026, 01:16:43 +0000 from Leo Shafranski to Governor Walz, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan, and Gwen Walz);³⁷

³³ Email from Kent Talbert, Investigative Counsel, H. Comm. on Educ. and Workforce, to Liz Kramer, Solicitor General, Office of the Minnesota Attorney General (Jan. 20, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ *See supra* at notes 12-14; *see* Letter of February 13, 2026, from Jacob Harris, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Minnesota Attorney General, to Chairman Tim Walberg, H. Comm. on Educ. and Workforce at 3 (on file with Comm.).

³⁶ *See* Bates 295 (on file with Comm.).

³⁷ *See* Bates 419 (on file with Comm.).

- Bates 703-704 (redacts 50 percent of Bates 703 and nearly 100 percent of the text of Bates 704, both of which are part of the body of an email message of November 13, 2025, 00:02:53 – 0000, from Leo Shafranski (GOV) to Governor Walz, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan, and Gwen Walz);³⁸
- Bates 711 (redacts 50 percent of Bates 711, which is part of the body of an email message of January 6, 2026, 01:16:43 -0000, from Leo Shafranski (GOV) to Governor Walz, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan, and Gwen Walz);³⁹
- Bates 18688-18691 (redacts 100 percent of the body of a chain of email messages of December 30-31, 2025, and January 5, 2026, among or between staff of Governor Walz’s office and staff of the Minnesota Management and Budget office regarding “Response to KSTP data request,” namely Samantha Snuggerud (GOV), Megan L. Frank (GOV), Patrick Hogan (MMB), Chris McNulty (MMB), Tovah Pentelovitch (GOV), Jake Smith (GOV), Anne O’Connor (GOV), and Erin Campbell (MMB).⁴⁰
- Bates 19191-19192 (redacts 75 percent of Bates 19191 and 100 percent of text of 19192, both of which are part of the body of an email message of December 29, 2025, 23:35:15 +0000, from Luis Guerrero (GOV) to Governor Walz, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan, and Gwen Walz);⁴¹
- Bates 19202 (redacts 50 percent of Bates 19202, which is part of the body of an email message of January 6, 2026, 01:16:43 +0000, from Leo Shafranski (GOV) to Governor Walz, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan, and Gwen Walz);⁴²

To summarize, to date the productions have consisted of many nonresponsive documents, duplicative documents, documents in the public domain, and documents containing multiple redactions without any explanation of the legal basis for them.

Before setting forth the Committee’s restated and revised requests, it bears noting that AAG Harris’ February 13 letter appears to conflate executive branch actions with oversight functions of the legislative branch of government (i.e., the Committee’s oversight of CCDBG and how it has been implemented and managed in Minnesota).⁴³ The letter contends that “[t]he federal government set all of these events in motion on the pretext of federal program fraud.”⁴⁴ The Committee rejects the assertion its actions were or are pretextual.⁴⁵

³⁸ See Bates 703-704 (on file with Comm.).

³⁹ See Bates 711 (on file with Comm.).

⁴⁰ See Bates 18688-18691 (on file with Comm.).

⁴¹ See Bates 19191-19192 (on file with Comm.).

⁴² See Bates 19202, appears to be a duplicate of Bates 711 (both on file with Comm.).

⁴³ See February 13, 2026, letter from Jacob Harris, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Minnesota Attorney General, to Chairman Tim Walberg, H. Comm. on Educ. and Workforce (on file with Comm.).

⁴⁴ *Id.* at 1-2. Contextually, the letter appears to associate the oversight function of the Committee with the presence of executive branch agency staff in Minnesota.

⁴⁵ See *Trump v. Mazars USA, LLP*, 591 U.S. 848, 863 (2020) (recognizing Congress’s authority to seek information in furtherance of its legislative responsibilities).

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The Committee revises and restates its requests of January 5, 2026, for the following non-public documents and communications as follows, to be produced by no later than May 27, 2026:

1. Provide all emails to or from Governor Walz during the period January 1, 2019, through February 13, 2026, wherein the following childcare center(s) are mentioned by name or otherwise discussed:

- a. Super Kids Daycare Center
- b. Future Leaders Early Learning Center
- c. Quality Learning Centers
- d. Tayo Daycare
- e. Minnesota Child Care Center
- f. Mini Child Care Center
- g. Sweet Angel Child Care
- h. ABC Learning Center
- i. Minnesota Best Child Care Center
- j. Mako Child Care Center

2. Provide all emails to or from Lieutenant Governor Flanagan during the period January 1, 2019, through February 13, 2026, wherein the childcare center(s) referenced in item 1 are mentioned by name or otherwise discussed.

3. Provide all emails to or from Chris Schmitter during the period January 1, 2019, through February 13, 2026, wherein the childcare center(s) referenced in item 1 are mentioned by name or otherwise discussed.

4. Provide all emails to or from Patrick Tanis during the period January 1, 2019, through February 13, 2026, wherein the childcare center(s) referenced in item 1 are mentioned by name or otherwise discussed.

5. For Bates 295, 419, 703-704, 711, 18688-18691, 19191-19192, and 19202, provide such documents without redactions.

6. Provide documents sufficient to identify all childcare providers that have received more than \$1 million in CCDF payments in any single fiscal year during the period January 1, 2019, through February 13, 2026.

Congress's oversight powers are derived from the U.S. Constitution and have been repeatedly affirmed by the United States Supreme Court. Under House Rule X, the Committee's legislative and oversight jurisdiction is broad, extending to "education ... generally" and "laws, programs, and Government activities relating to domestic educational programs and institutions and

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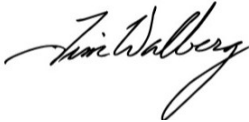
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programs of student assistance within the jurisdiction of other committees.”⁴⁶ This includes the *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act*.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kent Talbert at kent.talbert@mail.house.gov or at 202.225.4527.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Walberg".

Tim Walberg

Chairman

House Committee on Education and Workforce

⁴⁶ RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 119th Cong. at 7, 10 (Jan. 16, 2025), <https://rules.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/rules.house.gov/files/documents/houserules119thupdated.pdf>.