

RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN  
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA  
RICK SCOTT, FLORIDA  
JOSH HAWLEY, MISSOURI  
BERNIE MORENO, OHIO  
JONI ERNST, IOWA  
ASHLEY MOODY, FLORIDA

GARY C. PETERS, MICHIGAN  
MARGARET WOOD HASSAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT  
JOHN FETTERMAN, PENNSYLVANIA  
ANDY KIM, NEW JERSEY  
RUBEN GALLEGO, ARIZONA  
ELISSA SLOTKIN, MICHIGAN

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

August 19, 2025

## VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Noem,

I write to demand information in light of recent reporting indicating you are living in the Coast Guard Commandant's quarters at the expense of American taxpayers and service members.

As Secretary of Homeland Security, you have authority over the United States Coast Guard, raising serious questions about how you came to occupy one of its most prestigious, waterfront residences on Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, DC. You have apparently been occupying this residence for an undetermined length of time without paying rent, marking a striking departure from other cabinet secretaries.<sup>1</sup> For example, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth's rent is more than \$4,600 per month to live at Fort McNair, also in Washington, DC.<sup>2</sup> Your spokesperson indicated this was because you felt unsafe in your current apartment, yet you continue to pay rent on that apartment.<sup>3</sup> Like all Americans, you deserve to feel safe where you live, but your position as Secretary does not grant you the special privilege of taxpayer-funded housing.

Your rent-free occupation of the Coast Guard Commandant's residence is extremely troubling in light of past reports of your suspect management of taxpayer funds and concealment of financial information. As governor of South Dakota, you spent more than \$150,000 of taxpayer funds on political and personal activity, including \$7,555 for a six-day trip to Paris and \$2,200 for a trip to Houston for dental work, and failed to disclose who paid for these trips until

---

<sup>1</sup> Marianne LeVine, Liz Goodwin, and Dan Lamothe, "Kristi Noem is living rent-free in home used by Coast Guard Commandant," *Washington Post*, August 15, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/08/15/kristi-noem-is-living-free-charge-coast-guard-commandants-home/>.

<sup>2</sup> Konstantin Toropin, Steve Beynon and Rebecca Kheel, "Pentagon Offers Few Details on Hegseth's \$137,000 Housing Upgrades, But Secretary Will Pay Rent," *Military.com*, February 14, 2025, <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/02/14/pentagon-offers-few-details-hegseths-137000-housing-upgrades-secretary-will-pay-rent.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Marianne LeVine, Liz Goodwin, and Dan Lamothe, "Kristi Noem is living rent-free in home used by Coast Guard Commandant," *Washington Post*, August 15, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/08/15/kristi-noem-is-living-free-charge-coast-guard-commandants-home/>.

you became Secretary.<sup>4</sup> You also charged South Dakotan taxpayers \$68,000 to install a sauna, chandeliers, and rugs in the governor's mansion.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, an investigation earlier this year revealed you failed to publicly disclose an \$80,000 payment made directly to a company you own from a non-profit that promotes you and that you helped raise money for.<sup>6</sup>

To help me better understand how you came to your current living arrangement, please provide detailed written responses to the following questions by August 25, 2025:

1. What date did you move into the quarters on Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling?
2. Please describe the circumstances surrounding this move, including whether you or the Coast Guard initiated discussions.
3. Please explain your reason for occupying a military residence without paying rent.
4. What date do you intend to return to the apartment that you currently pay for? If no such date exists, please explain your plan for securing a permanent residence in the metro Washington, D.C. area.
5. Do you think you should live in the Coast Guard Commandant's quarters without paying rent? Why?

---

<sup>4</sup> Joshua Goodman, Jim Mustian, and Sarah Raza, "Kristi Noem refused to say who financed some of her travel. It was taxpayers who were on the hook," *Associated Press*, March 29, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/noem-travel-taxpayers-south-dakota-homeland-security-c2655e00a16d44bba46c60a14a638f5d>.

<sup>5</sup> Joe Sneve, "Gov. Noem spends more than \$68,000 in taxpayer money on rugs, sauna, chandeliers for state governor's mansion," *Sioux Falls Argus Leader*, November 29, 2021, <https://www.argusleader.com/story/news/2021/11/29/south-dakota-gov-kristi-noem-spent-68-k-sauna-more-receipts-show-capitol-public-records/8666319002/>.

<sup>6</sup> Justin Elliott, Joshue Kaplan, and Alex Mierjeski, "Kristi Noem Secretly Took a Cut of Political Donations," *ProPublica*, June 30, 2025, <https://www.propublica.org/article/kristi-noem-political-donations-income-dark-money-dhs-ethics>.

Thank you for your attention to this letter, and I await your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Richard Blumenthal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" and last name "Blumenthal" clearly legible.

Richard Blumenthal  
Ranking Member  
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations