

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 26, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE  
Washington, D.C. 20032

Dear Secretary Noem:

I write to urge the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to immediately reopen the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Global Entry program, which expedites U.S. customs and immigration clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers entering the United States. Suspending this trusted traveler program that is user fee-funded and designed to enhance security is counterproductive and – given its financial independence from regular appropriations – unnecessary during a partial government shutdown. The Global Entry program facilitates lawful international travel, strengthens security, improves the traveler experience, and supports U.S. economic activity. As such, it should be immediately reopened, and the related Transportation Security Administration (TSA) PreCheck program should remain open as well.

Global Entry and TSA PreCheck are both longstanding trusted traveler programs designed to expedite screening and entry for pre-vetted, low-risk travelers. Both programs are funded primarily through user fees that applicants and enrollees pay, not through annual discretionary appropriations. Therefore, given the lack of connection to appropriated dollars, your decision to suspend these fee-funded programs – and in the case of Global Entry, keep it closed – raises important questions about the legal and operational analysis underlying DHS's actions and proposals. Moreover, Global Entry and TSA PreCheck allow CBP and TSA officers to concentrate resources on unknown or higher-risk travelers. Suspending these programs increases congestion, lengthens wait times at airports and ports of entry, and imposes unnecessary burdens on lawful travelers and U.S. commerce.

Your recent decision to unnecessarily shut down Global Entry is part of a troubling trend of you and Special Government Employee (SGE) Corey Lewandowski using your authority to pick and choose what government services to provide, withhold, or threaten to withhold to maximize the Administration's political leverage and create uncertainty. For example, DHS initially announced that both the TSA PreCheck and Global Entry programs would be paused as part of shutdown-related operational adjustments – a decision met with widespread outrage by travelers. Shortly thereafter, the Department said that TSA PreCheck would remain operational, while Global Entry would remain closed. Then, only days later, as the Administration sought to gain further leverage in shutdown negotiations, you announced in a CNN interview that DHS would prioritize the TSA lanes that are most used – standard lanes, not PreCheck – signaling that a PreCheck shutdown may very well come, despite no demonstrated need to do so.

Given these concerns, I urge DHS to immediately reopen Global Entry and ensure that PreCheck remains available to travelers. I also request a detailed explanation of the decision-making process that led to the suspension of TSA PreCheck and Global Entry, including the legal authority relied upon, the operational or budgetary assessments conducted, the officials who authorized the action, and the rationale for restoring PreCheck while leaving Global Entry closed. Please also provide the Department's plan and anticipated timeline for fully restoring Global Entry services. I am copying the DHS Inspector General on this correspondence so that he and his office may track your answers and actions and those of SGE Lewandowski, who continues to serve in a "special" government role beyond the statutorily allowed period of time.

Trusted traveler programs like PreCheck and Global Entry are critical components of both border security and travel facilitation. They should remain operational and reliable, even during periods of fiscal uncertainty.

I request a written response no later than March 2, 2026.

Sincerely,



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U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen

Cc: DHS Inspector General Joseph Cuffari