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16 July 2018

Mr. Noah Bookbinder
Executive Director

Ambassador (Ret.) Norman L. Eisen
Chair

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)
455 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Bookbinder and Ambassador Eisen:

Thank you for your July 6, 2018 letter regarding recent recordkeeping practices at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Within your letter, CREW indicates concern regarding actions taken by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), a component agency of DHS, including the possible loss or destruction of records related to immigration case files.

In response to the concerns raised by CREW and various media reports, a letter was sent to CBP, DHS, and HHS on July 10, 2018 requesting a response to the allegations (enclosed). In accordance with 36 CFR 1230.16(b), NARA is requesting that CBP respond within 30 calendar days concerning these allegations and, to the extent an unauthorized disposal occurred, indicating the specific actions CBP will take to recover records and mitigate future unauthorized alterations or deletions of CBP records.

NARA takes its oversight of federal records management responsibilities very seriously and appreciates the issues being raised. NARA provides oversight of federal agency records management programs through inspections, required reporting, and other

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activities ensuring that records are created and maintained as required by federal statutes and regulations.

As part of NARA's Strategic Plan, FY 2018-FY 2022, we are increasing our capacity for conducting records management inspections and related oversight activities. While not directly related to this issue, earlier this year we inspected the records management programs of both CBP and HHS. The inspection reports will include findings and recommendations to improve their overall records management programs and the agencies will be required to create a plan of corrective action. Once these inspection reports are finalized, they will be posted to our website.

If you have any questions, please contact Laurence Brewer, Chief Records Officer for the U.S. Government at (301) 837-1539 or by email at Laurence.Brewer@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. S. Ferriero', with a stylized flourish at the end.

DAVID S. FERRIERO
Archivist of the United States

Enclosure