

**From:** Mavorkas, Alejandro (b)(6)  
 (b)(6)  
**Sent:** 5/18/2022 6:51:39 PM  
**To:** CANEGALLO, KRISTIE (b)(6)  
 (b)(6)  
**CC:** ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6)  
 (b)(6); SEIDMAN, RICKI  
 (b)(6); HIMMEL, CHLOE  
 (b)(6); ESPINOSA, MARSHA (b)(6)  
 (b)(6); PECK, SARAH  
 (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Alert: Homeland Disinformation Board Paused After GOP Backlash (1)

I will call him after the PC, I can't at the moment. Can our OLA team reach out again to his staff?

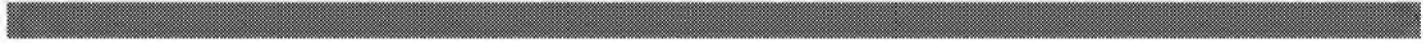
Thanks. Ali

Alejandro N. Mayorkas  
Secretary

---

**From:** CANEGALLO, KRISTIE (b)(6) gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:45:45 PM  
**To:** Mayorkas, Alejandro (b)(6) gov>  
**Cc:** ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6) gov>; SEIDMAN, RICKI (b)(6) gov>; HIMMEL, CHLOE (b)(6) gov>; ESPINOSA, MARSHA (b)(6) gov>; PECK, SARAH (b)(6) gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Alert: Homeland Disinformation Board Paused After GOP Backlash (1)

Sir – see highlights below – if possible to call Senator Murphy to brief him on the decision to pause the Board's work. Bryn is connecting with his staff at 430.



## Bloomberg Government



### Homeland Disinformation Board Paused After GOP Backlash (1)

By Maria Curi / May 18, 2022 02:14PM ET / Bloomberg Government

(Updates with statement from Jankowicz in 8th-9th paragraphs.)

A federal board to counter false information spread by foreign actors and criminal organizations is on hold, a senior Homeland Security Department official said Wednesday. Combating disinformation has become a central goal for many Democrats who are heeding warnings that false and misleading narratives are undermining democracy and leading to violence. Republicans, meanwhile, worry about efforts to censor conservative views. That dynamic has played out with DHS's Disinformation Governance Board. Formally announced May 2, the board immediately drew the ire of Republicans who call it an attack on free speech. DHS has now postponed the board's work.

Photo: Ellen M. Gilmer/Bloomberg Government

Department of Homeland Security headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Mischaracterizations and personal attacks have distracted from the board's work, a senior DHS official said on a call with reporters Wednesday.

GOP lawmakers also took aim at the board's executive director, Wilson Center disinformation fellow Nina Jankowicz. Jankowicz has resigned, the DHS official said.

The Washington Post first reported DHS would pause the board and Jankowicz's resignation.

*Homeland's Mayorkas Runs Into GOP Flak Over Disinformation Board*

Republicans accused Jankowicz of spreading false information herself, pointing, for example, to previous statements she has made tying news about Hunter Biden to Russia.

Jankowicz in an emailed statement noted she has studied disinformation for six years.

"It is deeply disappointing that mischaracterizations of the Board became a distraction from the Department's vital work," Jankowicz said, adding that she is returning to work in the public sphere.

"It's incredibly important work," Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) said of the board. "It's extraordinary how the right wing has created a fiction out of thin air."



Murphy, who said he hadn't yet been briefed by DHS, is chair of the Senate Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee.

DHS said it will give the Homeland Security Advisory Council 75 days to review how the department can combat disinformation most effectively without impeding free speech or privacy. The council is a bipartisan group of outside experts, including from the business community, non-profits, and academia, that advises DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

To contact the reporter on this story: Maria Curi in Washington at [mcuri@bloombergindustry.com](mailto:mcuri@bloombergindustry.com)

To contact the editors responsible for this story: Sarah Babbage at [sbabbage@bgov.com](mailto:sbabbage@bgov.com); Robin Meszoly at [rmezoly@bgov.com](mailto:rmezoly@bgov.com)

## BGOV Homeland Security Breaking News

[Edit this alert](#)

Copyright © 2022 Bloomberg Industry Group All Rights Reserved.

[Manage Your Subscription](#)  
[Report issue with this alert](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)  
[Terms & Conditions](#)



**From:** Mayorkas, Alejandro (b)(6)  
 (b)(6)  
**Sent:** 5/18/2022 6:53:24 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) CANEGALLO, KRISTIE (b)(6)  
 (b)(6)  
**CC:** ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6)  
 (b)(6) SEIDMAN, RICKI  
 (b)(6) HIMMEL, CHLOE  
 (b)(6) ESPINOSA, MARSHA (b)(6)  
 (b)(6) PECK, SARAH  
**Subject:** Re: Alert: Homeland Disinformation Board Paused After GOP Backlash (1)

Thanks so much.

Alejandro N. Mayorkas  
Secretary

---

**From:** (b)(6) gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:53:02 PM  
**To:** Mayorkas, Alejandro (b)(6) gov>; CANEGALLO, KRISTIE (b)(6) gov>  
**Cc:** ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6) gov>; SEIDMAN, RICKI (b)(6) gov>; HIMMEL, CHLOE (b)(6) gov>; ESPINOSA, MARSHA (b)(6) gov>; PECK, SARAH (b)(6) gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Alert: Homeland Disinformation Board Paused After GOP Backlash (1)

Yes sir, will do.

**From:** (b)(6) gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:52 PM  
**To:** CANEGALLO, KRISTIE (b)(6) gov>  
**Cc:** ULLOA, ISABELLA (b)(6) gov>; SEIDMAN, RICKI (b)(6) gov>; HIMMEL, CHLOE (b)(6) gov>; ESPINOSA, MARSHA (b)(6) gov>; PECK, SARAH (b)(6) gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Alert: Homeland Disinformation Board Paused After GOP Backlash (1)

I will call him after the PC, I can't at the moment. Can our OLA team reach out again to his staff?

Thanks. Ali

Alejandro N. Mayorkas  
Secretary

---

**From:** CANEGALLO, KRISTIE (b)(6) gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:45:45 PM  
**To:** Mayorkas, Alejandro (b)(6) gov>