

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Noem:

We write today regarding the \$625 million in federal security funding Congress provided for the 2026 FIFA World Cup host cities. With less than 100 days remaining until kickoff, host cities across the United States, including Kansas City, still have not received notification of their grant awards. This uncertainty is creating serious challenges for local officials who are responsible for preparing security operations for one of the largest global events ever hosted on American soil.

The ongoing Democrat shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has further complicated this process. As you have noted publicly, by shutting down DHS, Democrats have forced significant portions of FEMA staff to be placed on administrative leave, including many of the personnel responsible for reviewing and processing these grants. The longer Democrats refuse to appropriately fund DHS, the more difficult it becomes for host cities to finalize contracts, procure equipment, and complete the necessary planning to safely host this global event. It is critical that DHS operations return to full capacity as soon as possible so the Department can carry out its essential mission of protecting the American people and preparing our communities for the World Cup.

Congress appropriated these funds last year through the Working Families Tax Cut Law, one of President Trump's signature achievements, to ensure that host cities could implement the robust security measures required for an event of this scale. The Notice of Funding Opportunity anticipated that awards would be made no later than January 30, yet those notifications have not been issued. As a result, local governments and host committees remain unable to finalize contracts, procure equipment, or hire the personnel necessary to secure the event.

This funding is not optional. It is essential for planning and executing the safety and security operations required to protect millions of visitors, athletes, and spectators who will travel to the United States for the tournament.

Recent events underscore why this funding must be released as quickly as possible. The ongoing major combat operations in Iran have significantly elevated global security concerns, and intelligence officials have warned that Iranian retaliation or proxy activity could target U.S. interests. Experts have specifically warned that large international gatherings such as the 2026 World Cup could present attractive targets for terrorism or lone-actor attacks during periods of geopolitical tension.<sup>1</sup> Ensuring that host cities have the resources necessary to prepare

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.thetimes.com/us/american-politics/article/iran-conflict-will-make-world-cup-security-much-harder-6m62bf56?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.thetimes.com/us/american-politics/article/iran-conflict-will-make-world-cup-security-much-harder-6m62bf56?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

robust counterterrorism measures, coordinate with federal agencies, and secure high-profile venues is therefore not just a logistical matter but a critical national security priority.

Kansas City will host multiple matches and several team base camps, bringing potentially hundreds of thousands of visitors to the region. Local law enforcement officials have made clear that these funds are necessary to support additional personnel, equipment, and coordination with federal partners. The urgency of these preparations was underscored just last week when authorities discovered a bag containing twenty homemade explosive devices near the Liberty Memorial, a major landmark in Kansas City that will be a focal point for World Cup activities.<sup>2</sup> Incidents like this highlight why robust security preparation and federal support are so critical.

Kansas City and the other host cities have been preparing for this event for years and have already invested significant resources to ensure the tournament is safe and successful. However, with fewer than four months remaining before kickoff, host cities are rapidly approaching procurement deadlines that could force them to delay or cancel key preparations if federal funding is not released soon.

The United States will be on the global stage during the 2026 World Cup. Ensuring that host cities have the resources necessary to provide a safe and secure environment should remain a top priority.

Despite the reckless, dangerous, and irresponsible Democrat DHS shutdown, we respectfully urge the Department to finalize the review process and release the World Cup security grants as quickly as possible so that host cities can complete their preparations.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we look forward to working with you to ensure the United States hosts a safe and successful tournament.

Sincerely,



Mark Alford  
Member of Congress



Derek Schmidt  
Member of Congress

cc: Special Assistant Andrew Giuliani, Executive Director of the White House Task Force for the FIFA World Cup 2026

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.kshb.com/news/crime/man-charged-after-crews-find-explosives-in-trash-can-near-liberty-memorial>