

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 28, 2026

The Honorable Todd Blanche  
Acting Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Linda McMahon  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Acting Attorney General Blanche and Secretary McMahon:

We write to urge the Department of Justice to take swift action to investigate, and prosecute to the fullest extent of the law, the cyber-attack perpetrated against Instructure, and its subsidiary, Canvas, and to call on the Department of Education to provide resources, training, and technical assistance to expand cybersecurity support for K-12 schools, colleges, and universities.

On Thursday, May 7th, students across the country opened Canvas to access coursework materials, and study for final exams. They were greeted by a message allegedly left by the hacker group ShinyHunters, which threatened to release the data of Canvas millions of users, and demanded ransom payments from universities. This appears to be the culmination of an ongoing cyber-attack against Instructure—wherein the company was initially breached on May 1st. By May 3rd, Shiny Hunters claimed to have breached 275 million users' data across nine thousand schools.<sup>1</sup> While it appears that most students regained access to s by May 8th, this incident highlights the vulnerability of student, faculty, and staff data, and demands thorough investigation.<sup>2</sup>

This breach left schools in the lurch, having to act urgently to attempt to protect their students' data. Platforms like Canvas contain an inordinate amount of data about students and faculty alike—including names, email addresses, student ID numbers and Canvas messages. According to Instructure, it is not believed that this breach included other sensitive information, such as passwords, birth dates, or financial information.<sup>3</sup>

However short-lived, this breach demonstrated the need for robust investigation and prosecution of cybersecurity breaches, and the need to harden the cybersecurity infrastructure of our education system. With so much learning happening online, it is imperative that schools have the resources they need to maintain their student and faculty data privacy.

We look forward to working with you in our efforts to protect student data, and cybersecurity in education.

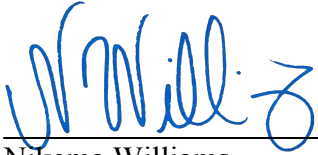
Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2026/05/07/us/canvas-hack-strands-college-students-finals-week>;

<sup>2</sup> <https://status.instructure.com/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/07/education/canvas-hacked-down-data-breach.html#:~:text=In%20an%20update%20shared%20the.ID%20numbers%20and%20Canvas%20messages>.



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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



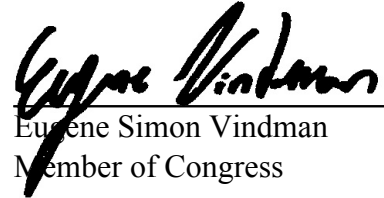
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Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Dexter, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Eugene Simon Vindman  
Member of Congress



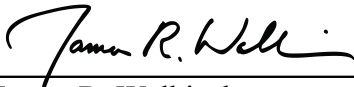
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



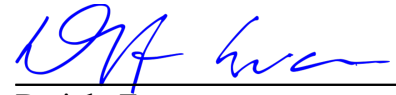
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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



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James R. Walkinshaw  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress