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## **NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Gov. Evers, Attorney General Kaul Join 19 States in Suing to Stop Elon Musk and DOGE's Attacks on Americans**

MADISON, Wis. – Gov. Tony Evers and Attorney General Josh Kaul today announced Wisconsin is joining a coalition of 19 states in filing a lawsuit against the Trump administration to stop the unauthorized disclosure of Americans' private information and sensitive data. The lawsuit asserts that the Trump administration illegally provided Elon Musk and the so-called "Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)" unauthorized access to the Treasury Department's central payment system, and therefore to Americans' most sensitive personal information, including bank account details and Social Security numbers. This expanded access could allow Musk and his team to block federal funds to states and programs providing health care, childcare, and other critical services. With this lawsuit, the coalition is seeking to stop the Trump administration's new policy that illegally grants DOGE, Musk, and others access to Americans' confidential information and the U.S. Treasury's payment systems.

"Wisconsinites expect the federal government to treat their Social Security numbers, bank account information, and other sensitive personal details with the highest level of protection and confidentiality—and that obligation doesn't go out the window just because Elon Musk says it should," said Gov. Evers. "Giving political appointees access to our most personal information like this is illegal. That's plain as day."

"Donald Trump has put the whims of Elon Musk ahead of Americans' privacy and security," said Attorney General Kaul. "We've gone to court to address this outrageous situation and to protect the American people."

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Beginning February 2, 2025, the Trump administration's Treasury Department adopted a new policy that grants "special government employees," including Elon Musk and members of DOGE, access to its central payment system operated by the Bureau of Fiscal Services (BFS). This central payment system controls vital funding that millions of Americans depend on, including Social Security payments, veteran's benefits, Medicare and Medicaid payments, and more. The payment system also controls billions of dollars that states rely on to support essential services like law enforcement, public education, and infrastructure repairs.

Access to BFS is limited by federal law to a select group of career civil servants with the appropriate security clearances. Wisconsin and the coalition assert the Treasury Department's new policy, which expands access to BFS's payment system, violates the law, jeopardizes Americans' most sensitive personal information, and would allow Elon Musk and other unauthorized political appointees to access a system that could permit them to freeze federal funds with the click of a button in violation of the Constitution.

With this lawsuit, Wisconsin and the coalition are seeking an injunction preventing the Trump administration from continuing its new policy of expanded access to BFS's payment system, as well as a declaration that the Treasury Department's policy change is unlawful and unconstitutional.

States joining Wisconsin in filing the lawsuit include Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Vermont.