



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

May 9, 2022

Mr. Gary R. Barksdale
Chief Postal Inspector
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-1000

Dear Mr. Barksdale:

I am writing in response to a growing number of reports of check-washing fraud through the United States Postal Service (USPS). I have heard directly from many of my constituents who have mailed checks through the USPS in Miami, only to have those checks stolen, and have thousands of dollars taken from their bank accounts. At a time when every penny matters to the hardworking Americans, this fraud cannot take place

The USPS plays a critical role for my constituents and trust in its services should be at the top of your priorities. For that reason, I am requesting an in-person briefing with myself and my staff to discuss this very important issue. I also respectfully request answers to the following questions:

- Has the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) seen a rise in check-washing cases in the last 12 months?
- How many open cases of check-washing does the USPIS currently have open? How many have been closed?
- What steps has the USPS or USPIS taken to combat this harmful fraud?
- How many, if any, arrests have been made in connection to check-washing fraud in the United States?
- What specific actions have you taken in South Florida to investigate reported incidences of check-washing?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Elvira Salazar", written in a cursive style.

Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress