

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 9, 2018

General John Kelly
White House Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear General Kelly,

We are extremely concerned by reports of domestic violence by former White House Staff Secretary Rob Porter. These reports appear to indicate that the Administration knowingly employed a man with a demonstrated pattern of violence against women and who did not possess the appropriate, permanent security clearance necessary for the position.

As White House Staff Secretary, Mr. Porter undoubtedly read and handled extremely sensitive national security information on behalf of the President. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) learned of the allegations of physical abuse from two of his ex-wives in January 2017. These serious allegations prevented Mr. Porter from obtaining the permanent security clearance required for the role of Staff Secretary. According to several reports, senior White House officials were made aware of the allegations in early fall. Despite being aware of these morally reprehensible and security-compromising claims, Mr. Porter remained in the position.

In your role as Chief of Staff, you are aware of the rigorous FBI background checks individuals with access to this information must undergo to obtain the permanent security clearance required, and you are informed of any issues with clearing senior presidential personnel in the process. As such, we respectfully request answers to these questions:


- (1) When did you learn that multiple women had alerted the FBI about Mr. Porter's history of domestic violence?
- (2) What details were provided to you about the abuse allegations against Mr. Porter?
- (3) What is the White House policy regarding domestic violence and what is the protocol for handling situations in which the White House is alerted to these allegations involving a member of staff?
- (4) Are there other White House employees who have security clearances pending because of allegations of domestic violence?

Furthermore, we direct you to the letter Ranking Member Cummings sent to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform dated February 8, 2018 requesting credible oversight of the security clearance process at the White House. We strongly urge your cooperation in the matter should Chairman Gowdy make the request.

Women and men throughout the country deserve to know the White House is committed to maintaining the highest level of integrity amongst its staff – particularly those who have been entrusted with our national security.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,




Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



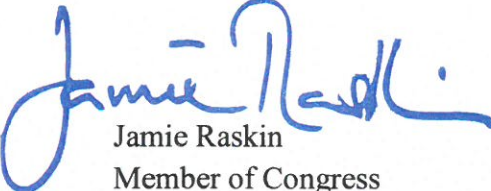
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



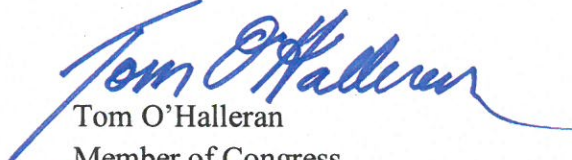
Katherine Clark
Member of Congress




Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



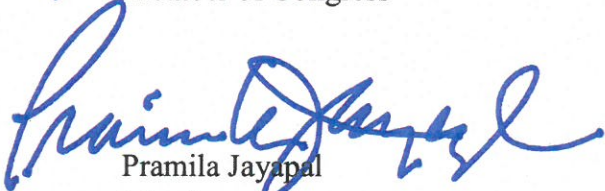
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



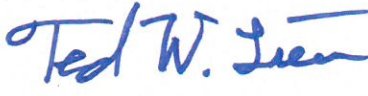
Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress




Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress




Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



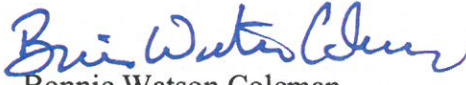
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



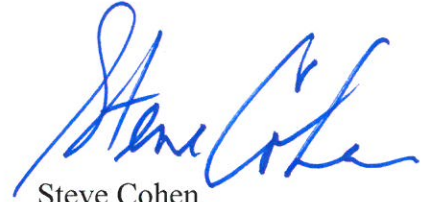
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



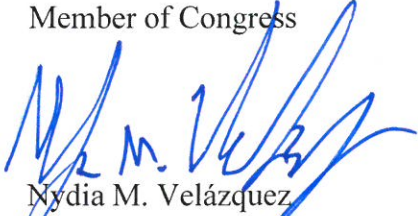
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



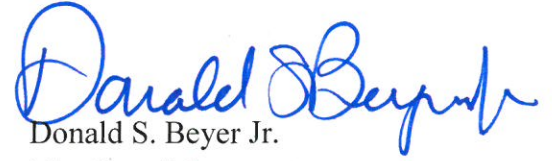
Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



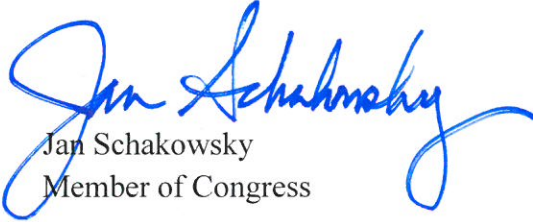
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



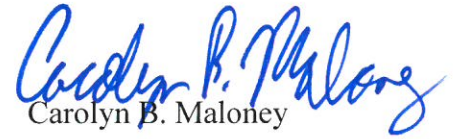
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



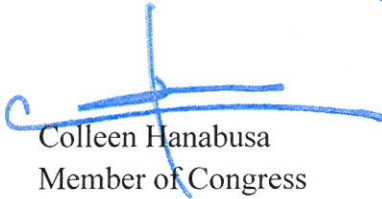
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



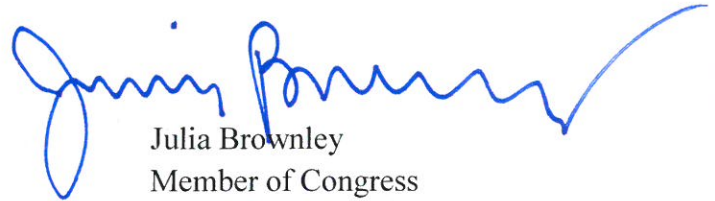
Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



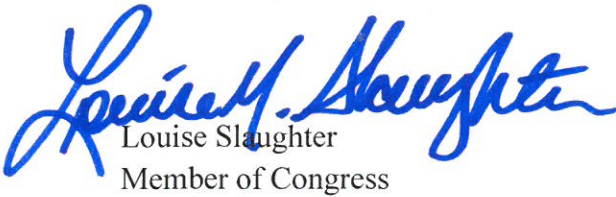
Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



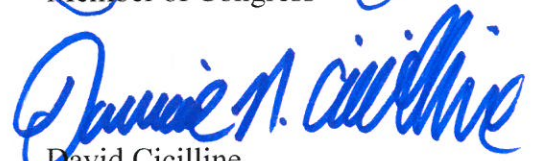
Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



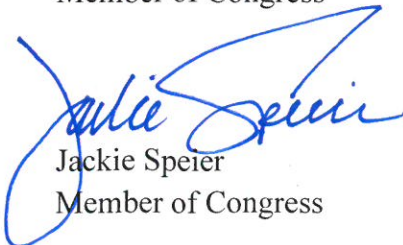
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



David Cicilline
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress