

RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY
8TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

515 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3711
FAX: (202) 225-7830

1701 EAST WOODFIELD ROAD, SUITE 704
SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173

TELEPHONE: (847) 413-1959
FAX: (847) 413-1965

www.krishnamoorthi.house.gov

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

15 February, 2018

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT & GOVERNMENT REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH CARE, BENEFITS,
AND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
RANKING MEMBER

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
HIGHER EDUCATION AND
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS

General John Kelly
White House Chief of Staff
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear General Kelly,

In light of the last week's revelations surrounding former Staff Secretary Rob Porter, it is clear that this White House must answer to Congress about how staff security clearances are being processed by this White House. In particular, I request that you clarify several recent and public reports regarding the White House's policy concerning interim security clearances.

On February 13th, *Politico* reported that the White House imposed a ban on new interim security clearances last November. On February 14, NBC News reported that this problem with more pervasive than previously thought, with over 130 political appointees working without a permanent clearance¹. According to the internal email cited by *Politico*, the White House Personnel Security Office advises that while it would allow staffers who had already been granted interim security clearances to maintain them, new hires would need to be granted full security clearances and requests for interim clearances were expected to be denied². This report indicates an awareness that the White House's overreliance on interim security clearances was creating vulnerabilities, yet there are still senior officials in this White House who continue to handle classified material under an interim security clearance. I respectfully request that you confirm whether this ban is still in place, and if the White House continues to deny requests for interim security clearances.

Additionally, this report alleges that you had privately expressed concerns about the number of people working in the White House on interim clearances, and had even considered firing someone who would not be able to secure a full clearance. Yet, while the FBI informed you and the White House that Mr. Porter – among others – would not qualify for a permanent clearance, he was still allowed to remain. I therefore ask that you clarify whether the President personally requested that Mr. Porter remain in his job, despite the FBI's warnings.

Please have this information to me within the next two weeks. If you are unable to do so, please provide a date at which time this information will be available.

Sincerely,


Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

¹ "Scores of top White House officials lack permanent security clearances", *NBC News*, 14 February 2018

² "White House imposed a ban on new interim security clearances last fall", *Politico*, 13 February 2018.