

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 8, 2020

Mr. Pat Cipollone
White House Counsel
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Cipollone,

Following up on my letter of December 3rd, 2020, I am writing to express my continuing concern about President Trump's reported interest in issuing preemptive pardons to members of his family, including himself.¹ The use of a preemptive presidential pardon for a family member, particularly a blanket pardon, would be entirely unprecedented in American history.

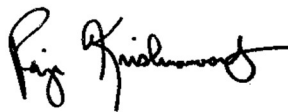
President Trump has already demonstrated a willingness to use his pardon power in never before seen ways, including through pardoning former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn who pleaded guilty to lying to federal agents about his contact with the Russian government. Since then, President Trump has reportedly asked aides if he can issue preemptive, blanket pardons to Donald Trump Jr., Eric Trump, Ivanka Trump, and Jared Kushner. While each of these family members, and the President himself, have faced scrutiny for actions which could lead to federal investigations, if not necessarily charges, the President could eliminate this risk through issuing blanket, preemptive pardons.² These pardons would block any accountability from the Trump family regarding their illicit actions.

Since President Trump has tended to use the pardon power in unusual ways, transparency with the American public is crucial. The importance of maintaining transparency of presidential pardons is why I introduced the Presidential Pardon Transparency Act to require that the Attorney General publish the name, date, and full text of a presidential pardon no later than three days after it's issued.³ While this legislation has yet to become law, if President Trump does pardon his family members in the coming weeks, I want to ensure that there is maximum transparency regarding each one so that the American people know what crimes for which pardons have been issued.

In light of these concerns, I request the following information:

1. Is the White House reviewing potential pardons for President Trump's family members or himself?
2. Can you guarantee that any pardons issued to members of the Trump family, close associates, or President Trump himself will be publicly disclosed and that the crimes for which the recipients are being pardoned will be specified?

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

¹ [Trump Has Discussed With Advisers Pardons for His 3 Eldest Children and Giuliani](#). *New York Times*. December 2, 2020.

² Ibid.

³ [H.R.1348 - Presidential Pardon Transparency Act of 2019](#). *Congress.gov*.