

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 19, 2021

Jeffrey A. Rosen
Acting U.S. Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

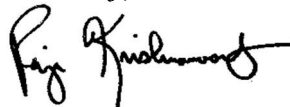
Dear Acting Attorney General Rosen,

I am writing with grave concern following recent reports that President Trump intends to issue as many as 100 pardons in his final day in office at the same time that his close associates have been selling access to the President to those seeking clemency for thousands of dollars and potentially far more.¹ Based on these reportedly widespread schemes, and at least one ongoing investigation into pardon-related bribery attempts, it has become clear that the opening of a full Department of Justice investigation or the appointment of a Special Counsel has become necessary to address the full range of attempts to corrupt President Trump's use of his pardon power while holding those responsible to account.²

While the President's decision to exercise his pardon power through his last day in office follow established precedent, throughout his time in office, he has broken precedent by issuing nearly 90 percent of his pardons to political allies and friends, and considering pardons for himself and members of his own family, while circumventing established Department of Justice procedure for vetting pardon applications.³ The President's serious inquiries into pardoning himself even drove White House Counsel Cipollone and Attorney General Barr to directly advise him against such action.⁴ Beyond the serious risks and questions inherent to these unprecedented potential abuses of his power, the President's rejection of established systems for reviewing pardons eliminates transparency and accountability from the system which also help safeguard it from even the appearance of corruption and impropriety. Traditional safeguards are now absent while associates of Rudy Giuliani, the President's personal attorney, are telling those seeking clemency that Mr. Giuliani could help them secure pardons for \$2 million.⁵ These allegations and the potential crimes they reveal must be investigated.

In light of these unprecedented circumstances, of unknown scope and enormous seriousness, I urge you to immediately open a Department of Justice investigation or appoint a Special Counsel before the transition to address the allegations of corruption around the pardon process while sending a clear message that regardless of party, regardless of administration, the United States will not tolerate the corruption of the pardon process.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

¹ [Prospect of Pardons in Final Days Fuels Market to Buy Access to Trump](#). *New York Times*. January 17, 2021.

² [Justice Department investigating potential presidential pardon bribery scheme, court records reveal](#). *CNN*. December 2, 2020.

³ [White House counsel and Barr warned Trump not to self-pardon](#). *CNN*. January 11, 2021

⁴ *Ibid*

⁵ [Prospect of Pardons in Final Days Fuels Market to Buy Access to Trump](#). *New York Times*. January 17, 2021.