



One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 23, 2020

Administrator Emily W. Murphy
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Administrator Murphy:

I write to express my serious concern about the many consequences for our nation's homeland security from the continuing failure of the General Services Administration (GSA) to recognize the unequivocal results of the 2020 Presidential election and ascertain Joe Biden as the President-elect of the United States.

With each passing day, GSA's failure to ascertain the election is preventing President-elect Biden's Transition Team from obtaining critical information from federal officials about the many threats to our homeland security. Denying President-Elect Biden access to the Presidential Daily Brief serves no purpose other than to keep the incoming administration in the dark about the many threats posed by terrorists, cyber threat actors, and ongoing efforts to spread disinformation, among other matters. Without this information, the incoming Administration will be less prepared to keep our Nation safe once President-elect Biden is sworn into office on January 20, 2021. In fact, the 9/11 Commission Report recognized how the truncated 2000-2001 Presidential transition contributed to our Nation's vulnerabilities in its discussion of the September 11, 2001 attacks—making it all the more inexplicable that an Administration would *create* a risk to our homeland security by intentionally hobbling an incoming President.

Moreover, the delay in ascertaining President-elect Biden will make it that much more difficult for the Department of Homeland Security to move forward with other critical tasks, such as reuniting children unconscionably separated from their parents. While the incoming Administration is forming a Task Force to begin this process, it needs all available information on these children now to advance this work as quickly as possible.

For these reasons, I urge you to ascertain Joe Biden as the President-elect and to begin to do all you can to ensure that his administration is prepared to secure the homeland on behalf of the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson".

Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman