



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

September 2, 2020

The Honorable Joseph V. Cuffari
Inspector General
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Inspector General Cuffari:

We write today with regard to your ongoing investigation into the actions of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A).

A recent report from *ABC News* suggests that, in early July, the Acting DHS Chief of Staff may have inappropriately withheld an I&A intelligence bulletin warning law enforcement partners—with “high confidence”—of Russian attempts to influence the 2020 election by denigrating former Vice President Joe Biden’s mental health.¹ In addition, the report provides email screenshots indicating that this I&A product was sent to the DHS Office of Legislative Affairs and Office of Public Affairs prior to publication and release.

This report, if accurate, not only reveals a departure from standard practice but also raises deeply troubling questions about political influence on the production and dissemination of DHS intelligence products, which must not serve any political agenda—even when the truth is damaging to the party in control of the White House.

As you continue your investigation into the impact of recent policy changes and potential misconduct involving I&A, we urge you to review the actions and policies underlying this report. We respectfully request that your office update the Committee no later than September 9, 2020, regarding changes to your investigative plan in light of this news.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

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

Bennie Thompson
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Max Rose".

Max Rose
Chairman
Subcommittee on Intelligence & Counterterrorism

¹ Josh Margolin et al., *DHS withheld July intelligence bulletin calling out Russian attack on Biden's mental health*, ABC NEWS, Sept. 2, 2020, <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/dhs-withheld-july-intelligence-bulletin-calling-russian-attack/story?id=72747130>.