



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

October 2, 2014

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street, SW – Mail Stop 0501
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

I am writing to express my appreciation for the decisive and timely actions you have taken in recent days regarding the United States Secret Service (Secret Service).

I am pleased that you recognize that the challenges the U. S. Secret Service (Secret Service) faces are complex and will necessitate more than changing its director. The selection of a former Special Agent in Charge with significant, recent, private sector experience to head the Secret Service on an interim basis is a good start. Yesterday, prior to you announcing Director Julia Pierson's resignation, I wrote the President about the need for a qualified, steadfast, and determined change agent at the helm of the Secret Service. I am hopeful that, in the near term, Joseph Clancy can bring his knowledge - gained inside and outside government- to bear in order to move the Secret Service forward.

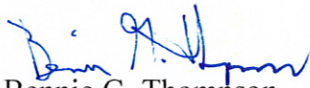
Looking to the future, your decision to bring together a panel of independent experts to scrutinize not only the operational lapses associated with the September 19th incident, but also "related issues concerning the Secret Service," has the potential to result in a new strategy. The operational deficiencies that have recently come to light and the longstanding cultural problems that have plagued the Secret Service must be eliminated. I urge you to seek out individuals with broad and diverse experience from Federal, State, and local governments, as well as the private sector. In particular, the individuals considered should have a demonstrated track record as leaders of organizations with good workforce morale, where employees - regardless of race, sex, or ethnicity - are provided pathways for advancement.

Finally, with respect to the selection process for the permanent director, it is important that a wide net be cast and that the process be carried out in a manner that takes into

account the views of organizations representing the men and women of the Secret Service.

Thank you, in advance, for considering my views. If you have any questions or require information, please contact Ms. Hope Goins, Chief Counsel for Oversight, at (202) 226-2616.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security