

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 23, 2018

John Kelly  
Chief of Staff  
White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear General Kelly:

We are writing to obtain information related to the White House's interim security clearance process. According to press reports, a year after becoming a White House advisor, Jared Kushner still has access to our most critical national security information pursuant to an interim security clearance.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Kushner reportedly had over one hundred omissions to his security clearance questionnaire, which he has supplemented three times.<sup>2</sup>

As you know, the Federal Bureau of Investigation generally conducts background investigations of White House staff seeking Secret, Top Secret, or higher security clearances and shares the information with the Executive Office of the President (EOP) in order to make a final determination.<sup>3</sup> For high-level White House staff, the process is normally expedited.<sup>4</sup> Mr. Kushner's case raises serious questions about whether his situation is an isolated one among White House senior staff. It also raises concerns about the clearance adjudication process for White House staff generally.

In an effort to bring more transparency and conduct effective oversight, Congress must have access to information about staff serving in our Nation's highest office. While we understand you cannot speak to ongoing investigations, it is important for us to understand the reason for Kushner's delayed security clearance, how many other White House staff are similarly situated, and determine what risks these delays may pose to our Nation's security.

With that in mind, and pursuant to Rule X(3)(g) and Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, please respond in writing to the following by February 5, 2018:

- Since January 20, 2017, how many White House staffers:

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<sup>1</sup> Summer Meza, "Jared Kushner Still Doesn't Have Security Clearance After a Year at the White House," *Newsweek* (January 17, 2018), available at <http://www.newsweek.com/jared-kushner-without-security-clearance-after-one-year-white-house-783965>.

<sup>2</sup> Kara Scannell, "Background check chief has 'never seen' mistakes and omissions at level of Jared Kushner forms," *CNN* (October 13, 2017), available at <http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/12/politics/jared-kushner-background-check-form/index.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Personnel Security: Pass and Security Clearance Data for the Executive Office of the President (Letter Report, 10/19/95, GAO/NSIAD-96-20), available at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/GAOREPORTS-NSIAD-96-20/html/GAOREPORTS-NSIAD-96-20.htm>, accessed on January 19, 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Adam Entous and Evan Osnos, "Jared Kushner is China's Trump Card," *New Yorker* (January 29, 2018), available at <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/01/29/jared-kushner-is-chinas-trump-card>.

- Have been nominated for a security clearance?
  - Have applied for a Secret, Top Secret, and/or higher security clearances?
  - Have been granted interim security clearances?
  - Have been denied an interim security clearance?
  - Have been granted final security clearances?
- Since January 20, 2017, what is the median time for White House staff to have been granted final security clearances?
  - Provide the White House policy for the issuance and revocation of interim security clearances.
  - What is the White House adjudicative process for security clearances? What is the White House policy for addressing issues that arise during the adjudication process? Do multiple omissions and amendments on security clearance forms affect final adjudications?
  - Since January 20, 2017, how many White House staffers have been denied a security clearance?
    - Of those denials, please provide the number of denials for each of the 13 adjudicative guidelines used to determine approval or denial of security clearances (Allegiance to the United States; Foreign Influence; Foreign Preference; Sexual Behavior; Personal Conduct; Financial Considerations; Alcohol Consumption; Drug Involvement; Psychological Conditions; Criminal Conduct; Handling Protected Information; Outside Activities; and Use of Information Technology Systems)
  - Since January 20, 2017, has the President ordered the issuance of a security clearance that is contradictory to the recommendations of the FBI and or the Executive Office of the President?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Alison Northrop (Thompson) at (202) 226-2616; Sean Perryman (Cummings) at (202) 225-5051; or Aaron Hiller (Nadler) at 202-225-6906.

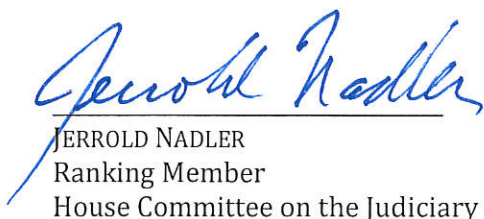
Sincerely,



BENNIE G. THOMPSON  
 Ranking Member  
 House Committee on Homeland Security



ELIJAH CUMMINGS  
 Ranking Member  
 House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform



JERROLD NADLER  
 Ranking Member  
 House Committee on the Judiciary