

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2019

The Honorable Daniel Coats
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director
of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

The Honorable Michael K. Atkinson
Inspector General of the
Intelligence Community
Washington, DC 20511

Dear Director Coats and Inspector General Atkinson:

We write to request that you review compliance by the Executive Office of the President (EOP) with policies and procedures governing security clearances and access to secure compartmented information (SCI). We also request that you review the adequacy of policies and procedures to ensure that mitigation measures are implemented when eligibility to access to classified information is granted despite potential security risks. We believe that you have the authority and expertise to conduct this review, including in your role as Security Executive Agent under Executive Order 13467.

Public reporting over the last two years has raised serious concerns of alleged irregularities and questionable decisions related to eligibility determinations for EOP personnel access to classified information. These allegations include abuse in granting interim clearances, to include for access to SCI; revoking a former senior intelligence official's eligibility for access to classified information seemingly for reasons of political retribution; overruling unfavorable adjudications made by career security professionals in some 30 cases; and the President's decision himself to grant his daughter and son-in-law clearances despite the documented concerns from the White House Counsel and Chief of Staff.

The Administration is undertaking an important transformation of the security clearance system to reflect today's threats, today's mobile workforce, and modern technologies. While we must stay focused on that larger reform effort, we must ensure that today's system operates with integrity, particularly at the White House.

We look forward to your attention to this matter and request you brief us on the results of your reviews within 60 days.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner
Vice Chair
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence



Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary



Robert Menendez
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations



Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Armed Services

cc: Mr. Bill Evanina, Director, National Counterintelligence and Security Center