

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 31, 2019

President Donald Trump
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We request that you direct the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) perform a Security Executive Agent National Assessment Program (SNAP) review of the Executive Office of the President's (EOP) compliance with security clearance policies and procedures.

Over the last two years, public reporting has raised serious concerns about irregularities and questionable decisions related to eligibility determinations for EOP personnel access to classified information. Among other things, reports allege that individuals have been granted interim clearances, to include access to Secure Compartmented Information, without undergoing a complete background investigation; that the EOP has extended these temporary clearances beyond the usual six month timeframe; that the EOP has overruled unfavorable adjudication recommendations by career security professionals in more than 30 cases; and that the EOP has threatened to revoke former officials' eligibility for access to classified information for reasons other than the adjudicative guidelines.

A SNAP review will assess compliance with statutory requirements and executive-branch policies and procedures governing security clearances and access to Sensitive Compartmented Information. Such policies and procedures ensure proper due diligence in exercising the granting, denying, and revoking of access to classified information. The DNI has conducted scores of SNAP reviews to ensure rigorous application of proven standards and to give Congress faith that classified information is being properly protected.

In a recent letter, the Office of the DNI advised us that, despite completing a SNAP review of the EOP personnel security program in 2015, it does not have the legal authority under Executive Order 13467 to conduct a SNAP review of the EOP unless you specifically direct it to do so. We believe a new review is necessary to address the allegations that have been raised and, if necessary,

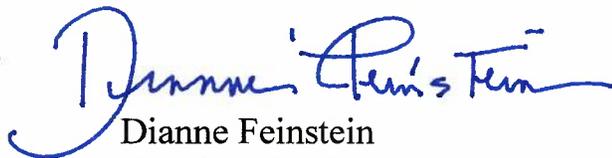
implement corrective action. Without such a review, it will be incumbent upon Congress to take a more direct role in overseeing and legislating on EOP security clearances to protect national security.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner
Vice Chairman
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence



Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee



Robert Menendez
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations



Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Armed Services

Cc: The Honorable Daniel Coats, Director of National Intelligence
The Honorable Susan M. Gordon, Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence