

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

February 11, 2019

Mr. Carl Kline
U.S. Department of Defense
5000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Kline:

The Committee on Oversight and Reform has launched an in-depth investigation of the security clearance process at the White House and Transition Team in response to grave breaches of national security at the highest levels of the Trump Administration.

The goals of this investigation are to determine why the White House and Transition Team appear to have disregarded established procedures for safeguarding classified information, evaluate the extent to which the nation's most highly guarded secrets were provided to officials who should not have had access to them, and develop reforms to remedy the flaws in presidential transition and current White House systems and practices.

On January 24, 2019, *NBC News* reported that two White House career officials rejected Senior Adviser to the President Jared Kushner's application for a top secret clearance, but were overruled by you, "a former Pentagon employee who was installed as director of the personnel security office in the Executive Office of the President in May 2017." It was also reported that you recently left the White House to return to the Department of Defense.¹

For these reasons, the Committee requests that you appear for a transcribed interview with Committee staff. Please contact the Committee by February 15, 2019, to schedule the interview.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X, clause 3(i) specifically charges the Committee with conducting oversight of "the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President."

¹ *Officials Rejected Jared Kushner for Top Secret Security Clearance, But Were Overruled*, NBC News (Jan. 24, 2019) (online at www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/officials-rejected-jared-kushner-top-secret-security-clearance-were-overruled-n962221).

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Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elijah E. Cummings". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" at the beginning.

Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member