

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

February 3, 2021

Mr. James M. Murray
Director
United States Secret Service
950 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20223

Dear Director Murray:

We write to request a closed-door briefing on how the Secret Service is managing its protective security mission to defend the White House Complex, as well as the President, Vice President, and former Presidents and Vice Presidents, and their respective families.

The Committee has a history of conducting bipartisan oversight of the Secret Service and its protective mission to secure the White House Complex and presidential residences.¹ In April 2019, the Secret Service briefed Committee Members after a Chinese national gained unauthorized access to Mar-a-Lago while carrying two passports, multiple cellphones, and a thumb drive loaded with malicious software.² In March 2017, the Committee received a classified briefing from the Secret Service following multiple high-profile security breaches at the White House, including one incident that involved an intruder who jumped the perimeter fence and was on White House grounds for more than 16 minutes.³

Since the events of January 6, 2021, law enforcement and intelligence officials have warned about increased “chatter” among various domestic violent extremists (DVEs) and militia organizations online, some of whom may be plotting attacks with significant consequences for U.S. national security.⁴

¹ See e.g., Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Hearing on Oversight of the Secret Service*, 114th Cong. (Nov. 15, 2016) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/full-house-committee-hearing-oversight-of-the-secret-service>); Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Hearing on USSS: Holding the Protectors Accountable*, 114th Cong. (Mar. 24, 2015) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/full-committee-on-uss-s-holding-the-protectors-accountable>).

² *Cummings Demands Briefing After Mar-a-Lago Arrest of Chinese Woman*, Politico (Apr. 3, 2019) (online at www.politico.com/story/2019/04/03/cummings-mar-a-lago-chinese-woman-arrest-1253678).

³ Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Press Release: Cummings Issues Statement After Classified Briefing on Recent Secret Service Incidents* (Mar. 20, 2017) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/news/press-releases/cummings-issues-statement-after-classified-briefing-on-recent-secret-service>).

⁴ *Right-Wing Extremist Chatter Spreads on New Platforms as Threat of Political Violence Ramps Up*, Politico (Jan. 12, 2021) (online at www.politico.com/news/2021/01/12/right-wing-extremist-social-media-458387);

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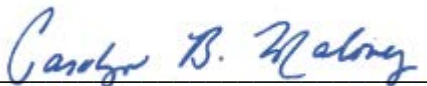
We respect the highly sensitive nature of the Secret Service's mission and specific protective operations. It is imperative that the Secret Service provide Congress with a complete threat assessment and security briefing to ensure that your agency has the resources and authorities necessary to ensure the successful completion of its protective security mission.

To that end, we request that the Secret Service brief us on the current threat environment and implications for the security of the President, Vice President, former Presidents and Vice Presidents, and their families; information and intelligence sharing between federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities; the availability of security personnel and resources; and coordination and communication with federal agencies and local law enforcement authorities.

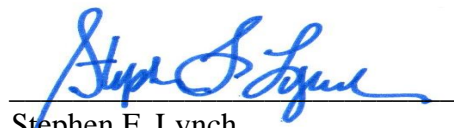
This briefing should include information relating to a Joint Intelligence Bulletin issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and National Counterterrorism Center, as well as a National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin issued by DHS on January 27, 2021, warning that "some ideologically-motivated violent extremists with objections to the exercise of governmental authority and the presidential transition, as well as other perceived grievances fueled by false narratives, could continue to mobilize to incite or commit violence."⁵

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. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform



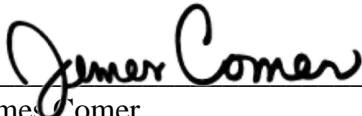
Stephen F. Lynch
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

Authorities Examine Threats Made Against Lawmakers Ahead of Impeachment Trial, Los Angeles Times (Jan. 25, 2021) (online at www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2021-01-25/lawmakers-threatened-ahead-trump-impeachment-trial).

⁵ *Federal Authorities Warn That the Capitol Breach Will Be a 'Significant Driver of Violence,'* New York Times (Jan. 13, 2021) (online at www.nytimes.com/2021/01/13/us/politics/capitol-breach-driver-of-violence.html); Department of Homeland Security, *National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin* (Jan. 27, 2021) (online at www.dhs.gov/ntas/advisory/national-terrorism-advisory-system-bulletin-january-27-2021).

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James Comer

Ranking Member

Committee on Oversight and Reform

Handwritten signature of Glenn Grothman in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Glenn Grothman

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on National Security